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## A Chapter in Iowa-Russian Relations

By HENRY BORZO\*

From the port of Riga, in Tsarist Russia, Dr. J. B. Hubbell, American Red Cross official and a native Iowan, reported that American flags were "crossed over the hotel entrances," that the shop windows displayed titles of sheet music bearing the American flag in colors, 'Hail Columbia,' 'Yankee Doodle,' 'The Star Spangled Banner,' and that "children are carrying our flags in the streets."<sup>1</sup>

The occasion for this was the arrival of another American ship with food in the spring of 1892 for the famine-stricken areas of Russia. Russia experienced one of her worst famines in 1891-92, and many committees were organized in America to aid the sufferers. The ship which had just arrived was the *Tynehead*. It was the fourth ship to leave America and carried a "cargo almost exclusively from Iowa."<sup>2</sup> The man who did more than any other individual to make this gift from Iowa possible was Benjamin F. Tillinghast, at that time associate editor of the *Davenport Democrat*. This paper is based largely on his unpublished correspondence.<sup>3</sup>

Although it may be true that "famine in old Russia was

\*Assistant professor of history, Drake University, Des Moines.

Tillinghast, B. F., "A Far-Reaching Charity, II," *The Midland Monthly* (1894), Vol. I, p. 415.

*Ibid.*, p. 325.

Records and Correspondence of Iowa Commission for Russian Famine Relief, 1892, Two volumes, Iowa State Department of History and Archives, Des Moines.

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endemic,"<sup>4</sup> Russia suffered at this time from one of the most disastrous famines in her history. It was estimated "that from thirty to thirty-five millions of people were sufferers."<sup>5</sup> Upon the heels of the famine came typhus and cholera which claimed many lives, including that of Tschaikowsky, who had "made a triumphal visit to America in 1891."<sup>6</sup> America, blessed with a great harvest in 1891, responded generously. Millers in Minneapolis organized a gift of flour; Nebraskans contributed one and a half million pounds of corn meal; Secretary of State Blaine forwarded \$11.51 to Russia from the public schools of Florence, South Carolina;<sup>7</sup> Iowa set up a Russian Famine Relief Commission which collected the corn sent to Russia on the Tynehead.

#### FORMATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

Already in the summer of 1891 Iowans knew something of Russia's difficulty; at least observant readers knew, said Tillinghast, that there had been serious crop failures.<sup>8</sup> A short article in the *Davenport Democrat* for July 24 told of credits and tax deferments on account of the failure of the harvest in one district in Russia, and that public subscriptions for relief had been opened. A month later the citizens of Davenport read that the Russian government was "making an extensive inquiry into the stock of wheat" and taking measures to relieve the distressed districts.<sup>9</sup> "Europe must depend on the United States for bread," said one editorial, and "it is to the European market that the Iowa farmer must look for his profit."<sup>10</sup> The practical and the charitable were subtly interwoven from the beginning in our responses to Russia's dilemma. On September 4,

<sup>4</sup> Maynard, Sir John, *Russia in Flux*, The Macmillan Co., New York, 1948, p. 29.

<sup>5</sup> Barton, Clara, *The Red Cross in Peace and War*, American Historical Press, 1899, p. 176.

<sup>6</sup> Bailey, Thomas, *America Faces Russia*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., 1950, p. 150.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 151.

<sup>8</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 327.

<sup>9</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, August 19, 1891.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, August 33 (sic.), 1891.







one Iowa paper reported Secretary of Agriculture Rusk saying that he was confident we could "extend our market for corn by introducing it into Germany as an article of food in place of rye."<sup>11</sup>

But other than practical and charitable considerations went into the making up of our response. Our disapproval of Tsarist policies in general and in connection with the Jews, in particular, was also important. Iowa papers reflected more concern with such problems than with that of the famine in the summer and fall of 1891. One paper stated that "any Russian Christian who wished to possess himself of the property of a Jewish neighbor can obtain it by paying one-tenth of its value to the mayor or government . . . it has become a common saying in parts of Russia 'kill a Jew and pay 20 roubles [\$20].' No other punishment is ever imposed for killing a Jew."<sup>12</sup> This same paper contended that the government "did not take a single step" to prevent attacks upon the Jews.<sup>13</sup> Another paper spoke of farm workers that looted Hebrew shops and killed some of their inmates.<sup>14</sup>

Our attitude to the Jews and Russia was not, however, all in favor of the Jews and opposed to Russia. An account of Russian peasants near Vilna who murdered a Jew and his family who "had bought up several million roubles worth of rye," was not overly sympathetic to the Jew.<sup>15</sup> Perhaps some disapproval of Russia and her treatment of the Jews was the result of articles which contended that most of the Jews who left Russia "will start by different lines for the United States."<sup>16</sup> Prophetic as one editorial was, in stating that the "Jew as a national will soon become a fact and . . . Palestine will be his home,"<sup>17</sup> many more were no

<sup>11</sup> *The Daily Nonpareil*, Council Bluffs, Sept. 4, 1891.

<sup>12</sup> *Boone County Republican*, Aug. 5, 1891.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, Aug. 12, 1891.

<sup>14</sup> *Milton Herald*, Aug. 13, 1891.

<sup>15</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Sept. 4, 1891.

<sup>16</sup> *Milton Herald*, Aug. 13, 1891.

<sup>17</sup> *The Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, Sept. 20, 1891.

doubt impressed with Baron Hirsch's scheme to provide homes for the Jews in America.<sup>18</sup> That not all Iowa press opinion was unqualifiedly in sympathy with the Jews in Russia was best borne out by an editorial which stated that the "oppression of the czar" was "very weak, almost tender—even compassionate in comparison with the oppression this people have stood at other Christian hands," and in other ages in history.<sup>19</sup>

Whether we were more annoyed at Russia or at the Jews who profiteered upon the famine situation or merely at the thought of large numbers of them coming here, is hard to say; that there was criticism of Russia, however, was clear and maybe not unmixed with fear. A Council Bluffs paper, quoting from an article in *Harpers*, spoke of the 120,000,000 inhabitants of an immense empire that "represents a mysterious and terrible force—a force that will surely astonish the world. The world has there an incommensurable unknown quantity, an epopee in the germ, which will be the astonishment of our sons, terrible perhaps, or consoling and prolific."<sup>20</sup>

There was thus more in the papers about the mistreatment of Jews than about the famine with which it was linked. It had not yet occurred to us to do anything about the famine. Early in September there was a severe drop in the temperature in Iowa and one editorial stated that had it been a "few degrees lower . . . the great bulk of the corn . . . would have been caught in the roasting ear and would have been worthless."<sup>21</sup> It was not till the end of September that the corn crop was safe and that it was certain there would be a "har-

<sup>18</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Sept. 27, 1891. Baron Hirsch was a fabulously wealthy European capitalist and philanthropist, the scion of a prominent Jewish banking family in Bavaria. He founded the Jewish Colonization Association, one of the greatest charitable trusts in the world, and gave \$53,526,000.00 to this English society for the relief of oppressed and persecuted Jews in many lands. In 1891 he founded a benevolent trust in the United States for the benefit of Jewish immigrants, endowing it with \$2,398,938.00.


<sup>19</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, June 14, 1891.

<sup>20</sup> *The Daily Nonpareil*, Council Bluffs, Sept. 10, 1891.

<sup>21</sup> *Milton Herald*, Sept. 3, 1891.







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vest of two billions of bushels of corn in the country, the largest yield ever known."<sup>22</sup>

This same paper reported that "agents from Iowa, Nebraska and other corn producing states are now engaged in visiting the country fairs in England and on the continent and are instructing the people how to prepare this great American grain as food for man."<sup>23</sup> Another paper urged Iowa "as a state to print and circulate chemical and scientific facts which are within reach . . . It [corn] is often called for at the tables of the best hotels . . . It is healthful."<sup>24</sup> With not too many articles in the press as yet about the sufferings of the Russians, we could concentrate, as soon as we knew we had a good crop, on the marketing of that crop. American farmers were reminded that "if it were not for the foreign market" they would be "paupers, comparatively speaking, in the midst of riches."<sup>25</sup> But Europe was short of supply. "Happily for the hungry of the old world, this country has been blessed with an unprecedented grain crop . . . and the golden stream [money]<sup>26</sup> has already begun to flow into the country. This large influx of the precious metal cannot be otherwise than beneficial to every branch of business. Gradually the yellow stream will reach every channel and stimulate every trade."<sup>27</sup>

Beginning in October, notices of the severity of the famine in Russia became fuller and appeared more frequently. One article stated that entire states were being deserted, that "the people have been driven to pillage on each other," and that "the officers of the imperial guard have decided not to drink champagne at any of the regimental banquets" but "to contribute the money which would have been so spent to the peasants of the famine stricken territories."<sup>28</sup> It was reported

<sup>22</sup> *The Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, Sept. 30, 1891.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Sept. 20, 1891.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, Sept. 17, 1891.

<sup>26</sup> Those who think mercantilism went out as Adam Smith walked in, please note. The Relief Commission that was later formed also decided against sending any money out of the state.

<sup>27</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Sept. 29, 1891.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, Oct. 8, 1891.

that fourteen million people were in urgent need of aid and that scurvy and typhus already raged in the famine-stricken districts.<sup>29</sup> In some districts the local government was not able to cope with the situation.<sup>30</sup> The government was reported as purchasing grain for the famishing peasants.<sup>31</sup> Later in October, the number estimated without food rose to twenty millions.<sup>32</sup>

Meanwhile, further reports were received about Jewish persecutions: "The police have given notice to the bankers that no dealing with, or through, the house of Rothschilds will be permitted in Russia,"<sup>33</sup> and the government "is about to issue an order prohibiting Jews from entering into contracts to supply the government with spirituous liquors or sell the same for export."<sup>34</sup> In one city, it was reported, fifty Jews were killed and hundreds were wounded while thousands fled to the forests.<sup>35</sup> The thought of aiding the sufferers may have been prevented from being born in the face of the anti-Semitism of the Russian government. The aid given the Jews by the Nihilist Societies<sup>36</sup> of America, may have caused some to think "a plague on both your houses." Persecution and famine were explained in a letter from "an Ex-Diplomatist" in terms of an impoverished nobility, an indolent and drunken peasantry, and a reactionary government. He maintained that the persecution was neither racial nor religious, but only because the Jews and Germans were more prosperous.<sup>37</sup> Most Iowans were probably confused by the many contradictory accounts.

Meanwhile in October, Iowans read that they had led all states in the production of corn, producing some

<sup>29</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Oct. 14, 1891.

<sup>30</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Oct. 23, 1891.

<sup>31</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Oct. 14, 1891.

<sup>32</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Oct. 25, 1891.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Oct. 25, 1891.

<sup>35</sup> *The Cherokee Times*, Oct. 29, 1891.

<sup>36</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Oct. 8, 1891; the nihilists opposed all organized governments, and in Russia they assassinated several high government officials.

<sup>37</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Oct. 25 and Nov. 8, 1891.







300,000,000 bushels of the total crop of two billion bushels—the value of which crop had set a record.<sup>38</sup> It was also clear and not confusing at all that Europe's need was America's opportunity; as notices appeared about the forthcoming Russian *ukase* or decree prohibiting the export of wheat, the price of that commodity rose.<sup>39</sup> But most editorials could hardly be concerned with Russia with American elections just around the corner; most editorials were concerned with those elections—and the question of prohibition.<sup>40</sup>

The elections over, Governor Boies re-elected, and Thanksgiving being proclaimed, men's minds could now turn to other things—particularly since the reports of suffering in Russia began to be longer and to appear more frequently. "In some districts the people eat food refused by the stock," said one article.<sup>41</sup> It said that "mothers kill their children in order to prevent them starving to death." The Russian Senator Baranoff said that 32,000,000 of the poor in Russia were faced with starvation.<sup>42</sup> It was reported that the Russian government was doing "everything in its power to help," and that "the czar made a large donation from his private purse."<sup>43</sup> Men were "rendered desperate by pangs of hunger," and the nobility would be held accountable for all disturbances.<sup>44</sup>

In the face of these reports of suffering, and in view of our most bountiful harvest, it was not unnatural that many people should have given thought to aiding the distressed, for even in Russia, with the worst of governments, the Czar personally contributed to relief. The first, this writer has found, who made a concrete move to furnish aid to the sufferers were the Nihilist Societies

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, Oct. 19 and 26, 1891.

<sup>39</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Oct. 30 and Nov. 7, 1891.

<sup>40</sup> It may be of incidental interest to note that it seemed as difficult then, as now, to tell just where some politicians stood on the "beverage" question.

<sup>41</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Nov. 7, 1891.

<sup>42</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Nov. 8, 1891.

<sup>43</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Nov. 18, 1891.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, Nov. 14, 1891.

of America who had contributed \$5,300 in October.<sup>45</sup> On November 13 Frances E. Willard of the Womens Christian Temperance Union urged giving relief to the sufferers in her annual report. In the convention on that day the delegates raised \$200 which was sent to Countess Tolstoi.<sup>46</sup>

In Iowa, Governor Boies issued a proclamation of Thanksgiving on November 18, urging all to "offer up prayers for a continuance of that Divine pleasure which has so generously protected us, and to implore its interposition in behalf of the unfortunate in every part of the world."<sup>47</sup> Three days later, Loran W. Reynolds from Boone wrote a letter to the editor of the *Iowa State Register* and asked, "Why should not the great State of Iowa respond to this demand upon humanity? Why not agitate the matter through the state, and procure donations for the relief of these sufferers?"<sup>48</sup> The letter contended that Russia had been our friend during the Civil war when England and France were hostile; this friendship should be remembered now in her hour of need. An editorial in the *Davenport Democrat*, of which Tillinghast was associate editor, made its appeal on November 23 by suggesting that "if a few shiploads of American food products could be sent to famine-stricken Russia the Czar's subjects would have a day of Thanksgiving worth celebrating. While this favored land is feasting thousands of Russians are dying." Meanwhile, the price of corn had risen from 58½ cents per bushel on November 20, to 76 cents on November 27; the *ukase* prohibiting the export of wheat and wheat products was issued in Russia on November 21 (our calendar)<sup>49</sup> and notice was received that the German government had decided to recognize American corn as a food staple.<sup>50</sup> The latter two items of news no

<sup>45</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Oct. 8, 1891.

<sup>46</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 328.

<sup>47</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Nov. 18, 1891.

<sup>48</sup> Nov. 24, 1891.

<sup>49</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Nov. 22, 1891.

<sup>50</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Nov. 19, 1891.







doubt helped to raise the price of wheat and corn. We had many reasons to be grateful—and charitable.

An editorial on Thanksgiving day said that appeals had been made to various charitable organizations to do something for the starving Russians and that, though American hearts were ready to give, their hands could not reach the Russians because their government had subordinated everything to the military; it concluded we should send flour to the people who were starving and "powder for the people who rule in Russia";<sup>51</sup> powder to blow them up we presume. The influence of George Kennan's reporting on Russia, which was very critical, was perhaps still being felt; Tillinghast said that if Kennan's version of Russia was accepted the people would expect Russian officials to "confiscate the supplies, burn the ships that transported them, and send to Siberia any Americans with the temerity to go and proffer the food."<sup>52</sup> President Harrison's Third Annual Message in December was also hardly a keynote speech for a round of charitable projects; he drew attention to Russia's revival of anti-Semitic laws bringing many more immigrants from that quarter to the United States "which may make it difficult to find homes and employment for them here and to seriously affect the labor market."<sup>53</sup>

The persistent accounts of suffering gradually made inroads upon our critical attitude, however. The millers of Minneapolis had already begun to solicit for flour to be sent to the hungry of Russia. At least one Iowa paper knew of this and commented on it, referring to it as "a work of brotherly love and world-wide charity."<sup>54</sup>

But there was more than a critical attitude to overcome. Much of the delay in getting some work of relief organized was that many people had been confused by the reports from Russia. An example of this would

<sup>51</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Nov. 26, 1891.

<sup>52</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 328.

<sup>53</sup> Richardson, J. (Ed.), *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, Washington, D.C., 1898, Vol. IX, p. 188.

<sup>54</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Dec. 7, 1891.

be the impressions gained from two quite different reports as to whether the Russians cared to accept aid. One news item reported the *Moscow Gazette* as denouncing the "acceptance of foreign aid for the distressed people of Russia, especially English aid," and that "Madame Tolstoi . . . said she doubted whether the government would consent to act as a mediator for the distribution of foreign assistance."<sup>55</sup> On the same day this article appeared in an Iowa newspaper, A. Greger of the Russian Legation in Washington, wrote his view to Secretary of State Blaine, which was shortly to be also publicized: "We are willing to forward from New York to Russia all flour, grains, etc., donated . . . the Russian Government has already answered to an offer of aid . . . instructing my legation to say that: 'the imperial Government accepted with gratitude this generous offer.'"<sup>56</sup>

Thoughts of Christmas now gave the final impetus to the charitable motivations inaugurated at Thanksgiving time. "The true Christmas spirit ought not to be forgetful of these famishing sufferers," said one editorial.<sup>57</sup> Three days before Christmas, Governor Boies issued a proclamation which asked that food be sent to the starving Russians. This proclamation was sent to the governor of every state.<sup>58</sup> An Iowa Russian Relief Commission was appointed, to be headed by Hiram C. Wheeler.<sup>59</sup> An editorial the day before Christmas pointed out that Iowa had about two million people among whom hunger was unknown; it asked, "is it not Christ-like to think of those entirely destitute of the means of keeping body and soul together . . . This destitution . . . is owing to the failure of crops for two seasons . . . The Russian government will do, and it is doing its best, but millions will perish before the Spring . . . multi-

<sup>55</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Dec. 16, 1891.

<sup>56</sup> Letter, A. Greger to James G. Blaine, Dec. 16, 1891.

<sup>57</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Dec. 20, 1891.

<sup>58</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 333.

<sup>59</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Dec. 23, 1891; Wheeler, the Republican candidate, had been defeated by Governor Boies in the November election of 1891.







tudes are living on grass and the foliage of trees . . . stories are circulated that . . . women have sold themselves to anyone who will give them food."<sup>60</sup>

There was also room, however, the day before Christmas, for some practical thoughts. Another paper pointed out that Secretary of Agriculture Rusk and Senator Paddock have "hit upon a good idea by which they propose to do a humanitarian act, and at the same time prove to the Russian government that American corn is a first class food product . . . This government has been trying for over twenty years to introduce corn abroad as food, without great success."<sup>61</sup>

At least one paper continued for a little longer to harp about the short-comings of the Russian government. One man who had stolen a few turnips was reported as sentenced to penal servitude for life.<sup>62</sup> It was pointed out that some of the richest merchants in St. Petersburg were not touched by the distress, and that furthermore the truth of the whole situation was being withheld from the Czar.<sup>63</sup> It was also reported that Grand Duke Sergious had interfered with the stealing of famine money and had thus become unpopular with some of the wealthy classes.<sup>64</sup> Reports were also given about the discovery of adulterated flour in Russia.<sup>65</sup> All of this would probably dampen the ardor of many otherwise charitably inclined persons. But by the end of December that same paper also subscribed to the spirit of charity; in its editorial column it said that the "suffering from starvation in Russia is unequalled in the history of a civilized nation. It is time for the generous people of Iowa to act promptly by contributing."<sup>66</sup>

Thus, by the end of December, Iowa was ready to

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, Dec. 24, 1891.

<sup>61</sup> *The Cherokee Times*, Dec. 24, 1891. It might be added that there is still little success in this area.

<sup>62</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Dec. 23, 1891.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, Dec. 23 and 25, 1891.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, Dec. 27, 1891.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, Dec. 29, 1891.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

roll up its sleeves and get to work on the problem of organizing relief for the Russians. The Proclamation had been issued and the Commission was set up. The press was in the main supporting the cause. The persistence of reports of ever greater disaster, and more to come with winter, gradually had pushed aside criticism of the Czar's government. The arguments in favor of helping the sufferers were unanswerable: Russia was our friend when "the union was in deepest trouble . . . Let us return this friendship—not, indeed, as a charity, but as a brotherly remembrance";<sup>67</sup> "No other year in the history of the state can bear any comparison to 1891 in the quantity or price of Iowa's agricultural productions";<sup>68</sup> we could, by giving, combine a humanitarian act with the practical aim of creating a market for corn;<sup>69</sup> and lastly, the argument which appeared most frequently, we should give out of gratitude to the Divine Providence which had given us so much.

Iowa was not the first in the business of getting relief work underway, but when she got started it was a most energetic enterprise. As Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross, said: "In Iowa it took the form of a veritable crusade for a most holy cause."<sup>70</sup>

#### THE WORK OF RELIEF

Tillinghast has written that Governor Boies did all in his power, both personally and officially, to aid the work of relief, and that the Proclamation would have been issued earlier had not the governor been home ill. But Iowans, as individuals, had already done much to get the work of relief started before the meeting of the Committee that the Governor had called for December 29. Clara Barton ascribed the original spark in Iowan relief work to Miss Alice French, the novelist who used the pen-name, Octave Thanet, and said that it was she who enlisted the support of Mr. Tillinghast, who

<sup>67</sup> *Davenport Democrat*, Dec. 28, 1891.

<sup>68</sup> *Iowa State Register*, Dec. 22, 1891.

<sup>69</sup> *The Cherokee Times*, Dec. 24, 1891; *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, Sept. 30, 1891.

<sup>70</sup> Barton, *op. cit.*, p. 177.







then became its organizer.<sup>71</sup> Tillinghast also gave Miss French credit.

In a letter to Governor Boies, Tillinghast outlined the plan to aid the Russians by sending them corn. While giving Miss French credit for originating the idea, he said that "the subject has been discussed by ladies and gentlemen here for weeks."<sup>72</sup> He had already corresponded with Miss Clara Barton, for she wired him that his views were acceptable and in agreement with those of the Russian Legation.<sup>73</sup> A week later she wired him to send her copies of the articles that had appeared in Iowa newspapers, and to also send copies to all the governors.<sup>74</sup> He had already sent copies of Governor Boies' Proclamation to all the governors of the forty-three states.<sup>75</sup>

But what to ship and how to ship it, seemed the real problem in the beginning. The millers of America were shipping flour, and the people in Minnesota who had organized this were urging Iowans to join them. "We will represent all who contribute," wrote W. C. Edgar of Minneapolis to Governor Boies, "and we will be pleased, should Iowa's donation go with ours, to give it the most conscientious attention."<sup>76</sup> Or could corn be sent? Or should it be corn-meal, and how packed and shipped? "For foreign shipment the meal would have to be cooled before packing and we have no facilities for doing this," wrote an official of the Plymouth Roller Mill Company in LeMars.<sup>77</sup> Clara Barton said she would make the "fullest investigation concerning mills and shipping shelled corn."<sup>78</sup> Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture wrote to Tillinghast that the idea "to kiln-dry the meal is a good one, in view of

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 177.

<sup>72</sup> Dec. 17, 1891. *Governor's Office Papers*, 1892, Series II, Iowa State Department of History and Archives, Des Moines.

<sup>73</sup> Dec. 18, 1891.

<sup>74</sup> Dec. 26, 1891.

<sup>75</sup> Letter, B. F. Tillinghast (hereafter cited as BFT) to Governor Boies, Dec. 26, 1891.

<sup>76</sup> Letter, W. C. Edgar to Governor Boies, Dec. 26, 1891.

<sup>77</sup> Letter to BFT, Dec. 28, 1891.

<sup>78</sup> Telegram to BFT, Dec. 29, 1891.

the shipment over sea." This letter also suggested that the enclosure of recipes would not be necessary because the Russians would not be likely to understand English and, that for the purpose of making corn better understood and appreciated, the relief committees would have the services of Colonel Murphy, "our corn agent in Europe."<sup>79</sup> Meanwhile, should money be sent? L. Houriet sent the Governor five dollars the day before Christmas;<sup>80</sup> S. H. Mallory of Chariton wrote: "I subscribe \$100 for the benefit of the stricken sufferers."<sup>81</sup> To spur on the work the Hon. W. I. Buchanan, chief of the department of Agriculture of the World's Columbian Exposition, and an Iowan, wrote to Tillinghast: "I see that Minnesota people have secured a vessel, and that the Michigan people are 'tearing up the earth.'"<sup>82</sup> A further incentive to the work was suggested in a letter from our minister in St. Petersburg, Andrew D. White. He wrote that the Russians entertained warm feelings for the Americans, and that to relieve the sufferers, who were eating bread made of straw, rye and bark, was "not only a most religious duty but a most patriotic duty."<sup>83</sup>

The Iowa Russian Relief Committee finally met on December 29 at the state capitol. Present at this first meeting were Hiram C. Wheeler of Odebolt, W. W. Witmer of Des Moines, Very Rev. T. M. Lenihan of Ft. Dodge, Will B. Barger of Chariton, A. Slimmer of Waverly, S. L. Dows of Cedar Rapids and B. F. Tillinghast of Davenport. Wheeler was elected president, B. Beeson, treasurer, and Tillinghast, secretary. The secretary was to make an appeal to the press and to correspond with the railroad and telegraph companies. The state was divided into eleven districts, each with a chairman and a treasurer, and in each district, chairmen were to be appointed for each of the ninety-nine counties. Ac-

<sup>79</sup> Dec. 29, 1891.

<sup>80</sup> Dec. 24, 1891.

<sup>81</sup> Letter to Governor Ames, Dec. 26, 1891.

<sup>82</sup> Dec. 29, 1891.

<sup>83</sup> Letter, Andrew D. White to BFT, Dec. 28, 189[1].







according to their decision that day, no state, district, county or other committeemen were to receive any compensation. The State Committee had ten members; there were nine district treasurers and eighty-three county chairmen, or one hundred two persons in all, in charge of the work of relief. For some reason, which the documents do not reveal, the ninth district, embracing Adair, Audubon, Cass, Guthrie, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Pottawattamie and Shelby counties, was not represented in the original organization; nor were there any county chairmen in the Seventh district which embraced Dallas, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren counties. This district also lacked a district treasurer. Some of these posts were later filled and there was of course some shuffling of personnel; it proved not always easy to find capable and enthusiastic people.

The private secretary to the governor, Clifford D. Ham, wrote to Tillinghast that the governor was having a hard time to find a good man to serve the ninth district;<sup>84</sup> one man was to be out of the state, another was down with the "grippe" and two others said they could not serve. Would Mr. Tillinghast please suggest someone? Many were called and none were chosen.<sup>85</sup>

Within a month S. L. Dows of Cedar Rapids, chairman for the fifth district, begged to be excused on account of his health; Alexander Charles was appointed in his place.<sup>86</sup> In February the chairman at Ft. Dodge, the Very Rev. Lenihan, wrote that he could no longer serve because he was going to Europe.<sup>87</sup> One letter to Tillinghast nominated a retired farmer for a chairmanship who "will just split his sides to do something . . . you will have to flatter him a little when you write to him."<sup>88</sup> A. Slimmer of Waverly wrote: "it is not every-

<sup>84</sup> Jan. 16, 1892.

<sup>85</sup> On Feb. 4 Silas Wilson was appointed, but he too declined. *Governor's Office Papers*, 1892. Finally, on Feb. 22, B. F. Clayton accepted the appointment.

<sup>86</sup> Letter, Charles Alexander to BFT, Jan. 29, 1892.

<sup>87</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 23, 1892.

<sup>88</sup> Jan. 27, 1892.

body who is willing to neglect a portion of his business for the benefit of suffering humanity. Dubuque county seems a most difficult place to get a good man in to take hold of it."<sup>89</sup>

The problem of securing good capable people was not, however, only a matter of finding retired farmers in search of social prestige, or enticing busy businessmen away from their pursuits for the sake of humanitarianism; the problem also soon became political. W. W. Witmer of Des Moines, lawyer, banker and prominent Democrat, suggested as early as the fifth of January that he might have to turn the work over to someone else; he said that he had been unable to do what he ought, that he had had trouble selecting committeemen, and that some of the newspapers discouraged the effort. A few days later, A. Slimmer quoted Col. Henderson as saying: "‘Don’t know of one Republican who does not favor Russian Resolution [relief measure in Congress]. Retrenchment Democrat reformers are killing it.’"<sup>90</sup>

Republican President Harrison in a Special Message to Congress on the fifth of January referred to the help that was already being organized for Russia: "It is most appropriate that a people whose storehouses have been so lavishly filled with all the fruits of the earth by the gracious favor of God should manifest their gratitude by large gifts to His suffering children in other lands."<sup>91</sup> This message went on to say that since the Secretary of the Navy had no steam vessel at his disposal to transport the food being collected, the President was recommending that the Secretary be authorized to charter a vessel. A bill to that effect, appropriating a sum not to exceed \$100,000 was passed by the Senate 40 to 9. The House by a vote of 165 to 72 struck out the appropriation, virtually killing the entire measure and the

<sup>89</sup> Letter to BFT, Jan. 2, 1892.

<sup>90</sup> Letter to BFT, Jan. 9, 1892. David B. Henderson of Dubuque was one of Iowa's most influential public figures as Republican member of Congress from the old Third district from 1883-1903, and Speaker of the House from 1899-1903.

<sup>91</sup> Richardson, *op. cit.*, p. 213.





whole question of federal aid was postponed by a vote of 93 to 87.<sup>92</sup> The Democratic Congress had rejected the President's suggestion.

Whether this was caused by genuine champions of States' Rights, or by the oratory of statesmen who insisted that Russia should not be aided until the persecutions were halted,<sup>93</sup> cannot be decided here. The *Iowa State Register* contended that Tracy of New York had led the fight against the resolution "simply because he desired to keep as many measures as possible in the way of the Bland free coinage bill."<sup>94</sup> At any rate, politics had entered the picture.

In Iowa there was a reflection of the national political scene. A Joint Resolution to ask Congress to take action to provide transportation for America's gifts to Russia, was passed in the House on January 28, 52 to 42.<sup>95</sup> Only one Democrat voted with the yeas and three Republicans with the nays. It would be hard to conclude that the measure was not partisan. The Resolution passed through the tortuous path of more committees and more amendments and was finally lost. Some correspondence also attested to the partisan character of the measure. In answer to a request from Tillinghast, Irving Richman, Democratic representative, wrote: "Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to offer the resolution you enclose, but I am embarrassed by the circumstances that our [Democratic] representatives in Congress have taken a position against the appropriation of money . . . I have conferred with Governor Boies on the matter and he suggested that I write you before offering the resolution. If it meets your approval I can have the resolution introduced by some Republican."<sup>96</sup>

"Don't lose courage over Congressional action," wired

<sup>92</sup> Bailey, *op. cit.*, p. 153.

<sup>93</sup> Williams, William, *American Russian Relations 1781-1947*, Rinehart & Co., Inc., New York, 1952, p. 27.

<sup>94</sup> Feb. 17, 1892.

<sup>95</sup> *Journal of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, Des Moines, 1892, pp. 90-95.

<sup>96</sup> Letter, Jan. 26, 1892.



Clara Barton to Tillinghast;<sup>97</sup> apparently he didn't for the work progressed in spite of the lack of support from the politicians. On the same day Tillinghast received word from the president of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railway saying that they would give free transportation for the food donated to Russia.<sup>98</sup> Other railways also offered free transportation to the seaboard. Through Mr. Buchanan in Chicago, Tillinghast received word that the Pennsylvania lines "will be glad to carry free their proper proportion of any donations."<sup>99</sup> The traffic manager of the Trunk Line Association wrote to Buchanan that all the roads heard from "expressed a cheerful willingness, each to do its part," but that to secure uniformity of action it was desirable to attempt to ascertain the probable quantity to be shipped.<sup>100</sup> It would also be necessary to make arrangements for the disposition of the freight when received at the seaboard, wrote J. F. Goddard, Commissioner of the Trunk Line Association.<sup>101</sup> The chairman of the Central Traffic Association said that the request for free transportation was granted by the lines of that association.<sup>102</sup> Buchanan said he was also willing to help make arrangements for ocean freights.<sup>103</sup> Tillinghast finally received favorable replies for free transportation from at least twenty-one lines. The correspondence regarding the arrangements, which were somewhat confused, was very considerable. Near the end of January the Trunk Line Association was still trying to determine the maximum quantity to be shipped by the Iowa Committee, to whom it was to be consigned, and what its disposition was to be then.<sup>104</sup> On January 30, the Central Traffic Association wrote to the local freight committees that the contributions were

<sup>97</sup> Jan. 7, 1892.

<sup>98</sup> C. J. Ives to BFT, Jan. 7, 1892.

<sup>99</sup> Letter, James W. McCrea to Buchanan, Jan. 13, 1892.

<sup>100</sup> Letter from B. A. Hegman, Jan. 16, 1892.

<sup>101</sup> Letter to W. I. Buchanan, Jan. 21, 1892.

<sup>102</sup> Letter, Geo. R. Blanchard to Buchanan, Jan. 18, 1892.

<sup>103</sup> Letter to BFT, Jan. 2, 1892.

<sup>104</sup> Letter to Buchanan, Jan. 25, 1892.





to be limited to about 100 cars of shelled corn from Iowa and five carloads from Indiana, among other shipments, and that the Iowa shipment was to be consigned to Clara Barton. As we shall see, this was later to be more than doubled.

The large number of letters and telegrams received by Tillinghast attest to the fact that, during January, many people were making donations, many of the district and county chairmen were pursuing the job with energy and enthusiasm and that Tillinghast himself had a full time job on his hands. "All thru those months," recalled his colleague, "Tillinghast did not come near his desk in the *Democrat* office . . . unless it was to write a letter or some such thing, in furtherance of the Cause."<sup>105</sup>

The appeals to the people were put in terms of charity and gratitude—charity because it was "infinitely 'more blessed to give than to receive'" and gratitude, both to God, because "of the abundance with which He has blessed us"<sup>106</sup> and to Russia "for friendly acts in a time of great trouble."<sup>107</sup> One chairman in a hurry, M. B. Kendrick of Allamakee county, circularized a statement to the effect that seven firms were named to act as depots for corn, eight persons were named to receive cash, the editors of each of the papers in the county were to be special solicitors, as well as the pastors of each church, the teachers in the public and private schools, and the postmasters, and that eighteen township committees would aid in "this great work of relieving the starving poor of Russia"—"without further notice from me, as I wish to close up the work before Feb. 1, 1892." The letter, which accompanied the circular, was sent out by Will Barger, Chairman for the Eighth District, appointing county chairmen, and said in part: "Will you please make a little sacrifice

<sup>105</sup> Calkins, J. E., "Reminiscences of the late B. F. Tillinghast," *The Davenport Democrat and Leader*, Jan. 24, 1937.

<sup>106</sup> Oliver, Addison, (Committeeman), "Circular to the Citizens of Monona County."

<sup>107</sup> Stackpole, Win. T., "The Russian Famine," *The Prairie Farmer*, Jan. 2, 1892.

of time in aiding us or have some person act in your place . . . Will you sit idly by and allow our fellowmen to die without an effort to save them? Please act and act immediately, and the blessings of humanity will follow you."<sup>108</sup>

Donations and subscriptions began to pour in. As early as January 9, a letter from Henderson, Iowa said that "the farmers have subscribed a carload of corn for the Russian Relief fund."<sup>109</sup> President C. B. Soutter of the packing house in Cedar Rapids offered the use of his warehouse and a donation of "some of the product which Europe has been so earnest in shutting out, viz., pork."<sup>110</sup> The use of a large hall in Cedar Rapids was also donated and the Florence Club gave a benefit performance to raise money for relief.<sup>111</sup> Muscatine county had raised \$550.00 by the end of January for the Russians.<sup>112</sup> But many gifts were small. The pastor of the German M. E. Church in Davenport forwarded \$11.50 to Tillinghast on January 21; four days later he sent another \$4.50 and asked for a receipt as he had to "report with voucher at [his] Conference."<sup>113</sup> No doubt Iowa should also be credited with out-of-state gifts, inspired by our literature or press. One Chicagoan forwarded ten dollars to Tillinghast—"my dividend upon my stock in the Masonic Temple."<sup>114</sup>

Some wrote in for more information. "Please send me a copy of your Russian map showing the suffering districts," wrote one man from Ottumwa.<sup>115</sup> The District Chairman at Ft. Dodge, the Very Rev. T. M. Lenihan, wrote that he was keeping the papers "well supplied with your [Tillinghast's] suggestions," and then

<sup>108</sup> Copy enclosed in letter to BFT, Jan. 4, 1892.

<sup>109</sup> Letter, E. A. Consigny from Mason Trimble.

<sup>110</sup> Newspaper clipping, Cedar Rapids, enclosed with letter to BFT, Jan. 7, 1892.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> Letter, W. H. Johnson, Auditor, to BFT, Jan. 26, 1892.

<sup>113</sup> Letter, A. H. F. Hertzler to BFT, Jan. 25, 1892.

<sup>114</sup> Letter, A. Hirschl to BFT, Jan. 2, 1892.

<sup>115</sup> Letter, George B. Gemeier to *Davenport Democrat*, Jan. 30, 1892.







went on to make one of his own: "why don't you get Bishop Cosgrove to endorse the movement?"<sup>116</sup> He also said that number two grade corn was not obtainable at Ft. Dodge, and asked if it was not the sense of the Committee that money collected could be used to buy the best grade of corn and have it exchanged for number two in New York.<sup>117</sup> Another inquiry addressed to Secretary Tillinghast suggested that Iowa's corn was not entirely dry and that therefore, rather than run the risk of deterioration in transit, money be invested in corn bought elsewhere for less; this letter also reported that 16 or 20 cars of corn would be shipped from Jones county.<sup>118</sup> Some consideration was given to buying mills with which to grind the corn into meal, and sending these mills to Russia. One manufacturer wrote that his mills required too much power, "otherwise we would be very glad indeed to make a contribution in that direction or at least furnish mills at extremely low prices."<sup>119</sup> The State Treasurer, who was also the treasurer for the Relief Commission, reported on January 26 that \$183.00 had been paid to his office, that is, money not converted to corn or other produce.

The work of relief was thus well under way in January of 1892. This does not mean, however, that it was not resisted in some quarters or unimpeded by problems. An article in *Der Demokrat* (Durant, Iowa) stated that the railroads in Russia "were so blocked with donations that a great deal would rot;" this article, wrote a solicitor, "threw a wet blanket over our soliciting. A few went back on their promises" in spite of the fact that the farmers who donated were promised that their names would be in the paper.<sup>120</sup> Somewhat of a problem also arose in connection with the relief effort being

<sup>116</sup> Letter to BFT, Jan. 13, 1892.

<sup>117</sup> Letter to BFT, Jan. 18, 1892.

<sup>118</sup> Letter, H. D. Sherman to BFT, Jan. 28, 1892.

<sup>119</sup> Letter, Barnard & Leas Mfg. Co., Moline, Ill., to BFT, Jan. 6, 1892.

<sup>120</sup> Letter, Randolph Fry to Col. G. Watson French, Scott County Relief Chairman, Jan. 29, 1892.

made in Minnesota. The Governor of that state had written to Governor Boies: "I believe it would be of mutual advantage should you arrange to ship your corn in the same boat that carries our flour."<sup>121</sup> But early in January it had been decided to send Iowa's contribution of corn under the auspices of the Red Cross.<sup>122</sup> W. C. Edgar, who was in charge of the Minnesota work, suggested that Iowa's corn could still go in the same boat, but have its portion of the relief supervised by Red Cross agents.<sup>123</sup> Hiram Wheeler wrote to Tillinghast that it seemed better to "send over corn by itself rather than with Minnesota wheat."<sup>124</sup> But by the end of January, Edgar wrote again to Tillinghast: "Is it your intention to have your corn go with our flour?"

There had meanwhile been two newspaper men claiming to be close friends of Edgar and Col. C. Reeve, the Minnesota Commissioners, volunteering to accompany Iowa's relief shipments, and then supplying local Iowa editors with exclusive copy. Edgar and Reeve came out with strongly worded denials of any friendship or connection with these newspaper men. This incident did not improve any possibly developing cooperation between Iowa and Minnesota. Edgar felt further impelled however to clarify his position to Tillinghast. He said he was in no way antagonistic to the Red Cross, but that since nothing was known about the Red Cross in Russia, he did not want to turn over any gifts to it. "It is our duty," he wrote, "plainly laid down by those who have placed us in charge of this cargo to first see what is being done by the Russian Red Cross before we deliver any part of it into their charge."<sup>125</sup>

The persistence with which Edgar pursued this question is somewhat puzzling till we read of the efforts of the folks in Philadelphia. Edwin Stuart,

<sup>121</sup> Dec. 26, 1891.

<sup>122</sup> Contributions of flour from Iowa had already been sent to Minnesota to go with their shipment; letter, W. C. Edgar to Gov. Boies, Dec. 24, 1891.

<sup>123</sup> Letter, Edgar to BFT, Jan. 2, 1892.

<sup>124</sup> Jan. 8, 1892.

<sup>125</sup> Feb. 4, 1892.







Mayor of Philadelphia and Chairman of their relief work, offered the use of a ship to go under the American flag.<sup>126</sup> They were apparently anxious to be the first to send an American relief ship from the United States. Tillinghast wired back that "all shipping arrangements have been made . . . Is it not possible to have your ship start from Philadelphia and call at New York for the goods? I have wired Miss Clara Barton." Clara Barton wired back that Philadelphia declined taking cargo except from Philadelphia; three days later she wired Tillinghast that he need not approve of the Philadelphia plan. She then sat down and wrote Tillinghast an eight page letter in confidence that explained a good deal.<sup>127</sup> It was confidential because, "true to the history of all charitable work, the bees that make the honey carry stings, and who-so would hive them, must wear a mask and work cautiously. A certain business man who came to Washington from Philadelphia," she went on, "had apparently caught the fever and along with that came the ambition to send the first ship, and that from Philadelphia; but getting a cargo was not so easy, hence the offer to Iowa as well as to Indiana . . . they needed you more than you did them." She continued to explain that the people in Philadelphia could of course decide what they wanted to do but that this was not Red Cross work and that she could not be responsible for it, for, "we are bound by international regulations and customs." She complained that there was a general impression that the Red Cross did not want money, only "stuff old and new," and that "but for this, we should have called your corn before this, and let no one ship it for us."

The desire to get to Russia first and with the most, and all the publicity that would go with this, was thus possibly present also among the Minnesota people. The rivalry in this charitable work, or the sting of the bees that carried the honey, as Clara Barton so aptly put it,

<sup>126</sup> Letter from Gov. Boies to BFT, forwarding the letter from Philadelphia, Feb. 6, 1892.

<sup>127</sup> Feb. 8, 1892.

consumed a considerable amount of energy to judge from the correspondence alone.

Suspicion too, sometimes impeded the work. When Reeve arrived back from Russia, he was quoted in the *Minneapolis Journal* as saying that the "Russian Red Cross Society . . . is in very bad odor in Russia."<sup>128</sup> A Mr. Oscar Firkins, reading this article and having contributed to the relief work, wrote to Clara Barton for assurances. She refunded his \$102.20 with the comment: "So far as the Red Cross is concerned in my fifteen years of acquaintance with, and participation in it, internationally and nationally, this is the first charge I have ever heard against its integrity."<sup>129</sup> She went on to point out that Dr. J. B. Hubbell had been appointed to go to Russia and had a long personal acquaintance with many of the officials there. Tillinghast received accounts of all this and copies of Clara Barton's letters. She wrote to him that Reeve's remark about the Russian Red Cross "grew out of the old spite about loading the Missouri;<sup>130</sup> it is a poor thing to do but there is no doubt but Mr. Edgar intends to demolish the little Red Cross."<sup>131</sup>

In spite of doubts and rivalries the work went on, however, and more aid was given to facilitate it. The Postal Telegraph Cable Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company had given free use of their facilities for the leaders in the relief movement, and now extended that use to April 30, 1892. The railroads were further cooperative in granting passes; Miss Alice French was granted a pass by the Chicago and Northwestern, good to March 17, by the Illinois Central to March 20, and by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. This novelist, whose first work was "A Communist's

<sup>128</sup> May 6, 1892.

<sup>129</sup> May 15, 1892. The reason some money was sent directly to Russia was that a Mr. Luly in the 3rd district claimed the Red Cross in Russia would give only to the members of the Greek church; hence the German Protestant donors sent their contribution to German Protestant Minister in Russia; letter, Josephine Hobbs to A. Slimmer, Apr. 15, 1892.

<sup>130</sup> The Missouri, carrying donations from northwestern states, left New York Mar. 15, 1892.

<sup>131</sup> Clara Barton to BFT, May 19, 1892.





Wife,"<sup>132</sup> did more no doubt than any other woman in travelling the state<sup>133</sup> and enlisting sympathy for the hungry in Russia.

The ladies interested in Russian relief had also organized and formed a Committee. This Committee, called by the governor, met at the Savery Hotel Feb. 2, 1892. Since the work was to be done through the Red Cross, it was called the Iowa Women's Auxiliary to the Red Cross, and received permission of the Red Cross to use its distinctive badge. All the members of the Auxiliary signed a pledge: "To inform one's self in regard to the Russian famine, to influence one's friends so far as one lies in favor of the objects of the auxiliary and to aid in all efforts of the auxiliary to raise money for the Russian Famine Committee by entertainments." Mrs. William Larrabee of Clermont was chosen as chairman and Miss Alice French of Davenport as secretary. Each district, except the fifth, was represented by a chairman.

By the beginning of February, Tillinghast was able to wire Clara Barton: "Iowa is fully ready to start a hundred car loads of corn." Miss Barton wired back: "God bless Miss French and you." Isabel Hapgood, translator of many Russian novels, wired Tillinghast a congratulatory message, admitting that Iowa's work had preceded that of New York. Miss Hapgood asked Tillinghast a week later to send rye and wheat to plant in April, saying that this was what the Russian Consul General had recommended.<sup>134</sup> She also wrote to Tillinghast that she was anxious to furnish letters of introduction for those who would accompany the corn to some influential people in St. Petersburg, such as a cousin of Count Tolstoy who was "working hard to help the sufferers."<sup>135</sup>

<sup>132</sup> Afterwards incorporated in her book, *Knitters in the Sun*, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, 1888.

<sup>133</sup> She addressed women in Iowa City, Des Moines, Muscatine, Burlington, Mt. Pleasant, Clinton, Dubuque, and Sioux City, according to Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 333.

<sup>134</sup> Feb. 12, 1892.

<sup>135</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 15, 1892.



But there were still frustrations to the work, and they were not all man-made. From about the middle of February to the middle of March, there were many reports which indicated that the work of relief was almost entirely halted by impossible roads. "The roads have been so bad that the farmers could not haul in any corn of late," wrote J. C. Engelbert of Marengo.<sup>136</sup> Johnson, Sioux, Kossuth, Muscatine and Sac counties also reported very bad road conditions. "We have simply been stuck in the mud," wrote one man from Muscatine.<sup>137</sup> Mr. Wheeler, President of the Relief Commission, wrote to Tillinghast that "in twenty years I have never seen the roads worse at any season of the year than they are here at present."<sup>138</sup> He also brought up another problem that was hardly anyone's fault: "I wired you last evening asking if no. 3 corn would do, as that is the best grade that can be obtained here." Mr. Kessey of Sioux county was also reported saying that "he could not obtain the proper grade of corn in his locality." John R. Lenon of Storm Lake wrote that he could not get grade two corn, and that he would send the money to Wheeler.<sup>139</sup> For his part, Wheeler reported having \$1,000 to invest from H. D. Sherman of Monticello and \$1,500 from Mr. Bigelow of New Hampton; he thought it better to distribute the purchasing to equalize the traffic on the railroads.<sup>140</sup> Worries, that "this corn will not bear shipment, if shelled, because it is not properly cured,"<sup>141</sup> and that there won't be much to give because a six to eight mile strip of corn was ruined by a hailstorm,<sup>142</sup> also came to Tillinghast's desk; each piece of correspondence is marked "answered," with the date.

Some misunderstandings also proved annoying and

<sup>136</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 23, 1892.

<sup>137</sup> Letter to BFT, Mar. 12, 1892.

<sup>138</sup> Mar. 4, 1892.

<sup>139</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 24, 1892.

<sup>140</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 29, 1892.

<sup>141</sup> Letter, J. C. White, Rector of St. Patrick's Church, Marengo, to BFT, Feb. 16, 1892.

<sup>142</sup> Letter, L. M. Kilburn, Fontanello, to BFT, Feb. 5, 1892.





slowed up the effort. The Chicago committee of the Central Traffic Association reported receiving freight from Iowa when it had not yet sent any;<sup>143</sup> Ella H. Durley of Des Moines had not yet received her telegraph frank;<sup>144</sup> one telegraph agent had no instructions as "to the free use of wires" as late as the twenty-second of February;<sup>145</sup> and "dried meal" became "dried meats" in some telegrams, causing a good deal of confusion.

Despite bad roads, misgivings and misunderstandings, the work progressed during February. A bank statement from Clinton showed that the fund there had a balance of \$1,347.70; P. E. C. Lally of Denison reported \$400.00 in the bank and a car of corn in the elevator ready to ship;<sup>146</sup> Rev. Lenihan wired that they would have about six carloads of corn shipped from Ft. Dodge; Mr. Fleming in Burlington wrote that they "were ready to ship five and possibly six car loads of corn."<sup>147</sup> J. B. Butler of North English reported that he had 750 bushels of unshelled corn for Russian relief;<sup>148</sup> the Amana Society asked for cards and certificates for two cars—certificates and Red Cross placards for the cars were furnished by the Red Cross. Alexander Charles of Cedar Rapids wrote that he had shipped six cars of "as good a quality corn as any that will leave Iowa."<sup>149</sup> The Treasurer of the Iowa Relief Committee, Byron A. Beeson, reported near the end of the month that he had credited the Relief Fund with \$2,630.85.

The Ninth district, which had had such trouble getting a leader, was apparently ready to enter the race by the end of February in earnest—Mr. B. F. Clayton wrote: "I will have the preachers, the Press, the school teachers, the old men and maidens at work for us

<sup>143</sup> Telegram, Charles L. Shaw to BFT, Feb. 1, 1892; latter's reply.

<sup>144</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 9, 1892.

<sup>145</sup> Letter, J. W. Huichon, Algona, to BFT, Feb. 22, 1892.

<sup>146</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 12, 1892.

<sup>147</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 16, 1892.

<sup>148</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 19, 1892.

<sup>149</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 23, 1892.

within ten days.”<sup>150</sup> March was further pushed along by another chairman who thought of enlisting the children in relief work. “As a moral educator,” he said, “there is nothing they need more than a part in practical charity.”<sup>151</sup> The circular that he published was certain to enlist further support and sympathy: “Fathers and brothers are eating their own daughters and sisters while our corn cribs are full.” Also early in March, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy extended its free transport to grain for the work of relief to May 1, 1892.<sup>152</sup> Some of the ladies worked hard in March. Alice French reported that one lady was making a house to house canvass, and that Mrs. C. M. Hatchett of Waverly had called for twenty-five more badges for an equal number of new workers.<sup>153</sup> Lucy Patterson reported \$150 raised by the ladies of Sioux City;<sup>154</sup> the ladies in Mahaska county raised \$571 in the first three weeks of March;<sup>155</sup> Mrs. J. B. Harsh of the Eighth district sent in \$105.60.<sup>156</sup>

Some of the charitable efforts went out of channels. Frances Parrott reported that “Cedar Falls . . . cut loose and having raised . . . about \$500 . . . cabled it direct to Russia in spite of our protest. What can we do about that?”<sup>157</sup> There is no record of Tillinghast’s reply, but there is evidence that the subject was seriously considered. W. W. Witmer of Des Moines, though no longer a chairman, wrote: “we should not send money away from Iowa . . . I was under the impression then (at our first meeting) that our corn must be kiln dried . . . under no circumstances would I part with the money to be forwarded in cash.”<sup>158</sup> The banker no doubt had his reasons. The decision not to send money abroad

<sup>150</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 26, 1892.

<sup>151</sup> Letter, Will Ellsworth, Robins, Iowa, to BFT, Mar. 1, 1892.

<sup>152</sup> Letter to BFT, Mar. 4, 1892.

<sup>153</sup> Letter, Alice French to BFT, Mar. 3, 1892.

<sup>154</sup> Letter to BFT, Mar. 21, 1892.

<sup>155</sup> Letter, Al Swalm to BFT, Mar. 21, 1892.

<sup>156</sup> Letter to BFT, (Creston, Iowa), Mar. 21, 1892.

<sup>157</sup> Letter to BFT, (Waterloo, Iowa), Mar. 2, 1892; see fn. 129.

<sup>158</sup> Letter to BFT, Mar. 9, 1892.







was later explained by Tillinghast in this wise: "Its value in food bought here would be greatly increased. Free carriage to Russia . . . to the interior of Russia was promised, thus adding a three-fold power to every dollar. It was also wisely determined to convert all money advanced into shelled corn, if possible in the locality where the money was given. Farmers could furnish grain often with less trouble than cash."<sup>159</sup>

Though most of the people and the press were perhaps sympathetic to aiding the starving in Russia, at least since the end of December, 1891, it must not be assumed that all Iowans were so inclined. It is significant that there continued to be opposition and no little indifference, and that what was accomplished, was accomplished in spite of it. Henry Wallace,<sup>160</sup> a United Brethren minister, said that the ministers of Des Moines declined to take up a collection for Russian relief because "the liberally inclined would naturally contribute through other sources and the collection would necessarily be small."<sup>161</sup> P. S. Bannister of Clinton reported he could not find anyone to conduct a "personal canvass without compensation."<sup>162</sup> J. K. Montgomery of West Union wrote: "I have found it an up hill job to get people interested in the matter of raising funds for Russian Relief in this Fayette Co."<sup>163</sup> One newspaper clipping reported a Wm. C. Barker of New York, who had just returned from a commercial trip to Russia, as saying that "the larger portion of the famine sufferers are of a very low class of humanity, even worse than our Indians in their methods of living and laziness."<sup>164</sup> Even one of the appeals for aid stated that part of the cause of the famine was the fact that the Czar had driven five million Jews into fifteen provinces

<sup>159</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.* I, p. 336.

<sup>160</sup> Grandfather of the former Vice-President.

<sup>161</sup> Letter to BFT, Jan. 20, 1892.

<sup>162</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. 18, 1892.

<sup>163</sup> Letter to BFT, Mar. 16, 1892.

<sup>164</sup> Clipping, Lansing, Mich., Mar. 13, 1892, forwarded to BFT.

of Southern Russia and that these Jews had, because of this, refused the customary loans to the farmers.<sup>165</sup>

In addition to opposition or indifference, there was also, even at the height of the work of relief, ignorance of the program and its procedures. In the middle of February, James R. Gillies, the new chairman for Henry county, wanted information about conditions in the famine area.<sup>166</sup> One letter reported that there was "no one to give directions here for shipping a car of corn."<sup>167</sup> A. Slimmer of Waverly, who was in on the work from the beginning, was puzzled by the instructions of Feb. 10, 1892 which read in part, "shipments must be . . . consigned to Miss Clara Barton" and "contributions forwarded . . . must be consigned, care Charles L. Shaw," of the Central Traffic Association at Chicago.<sup>168</sup> Long after the work of relief was completed, J. H. Beincke of Little Rock wrote about the Congressional action which failed to make an appropriation for transportation of the food to Russia. "It is claimed here," he said, "that it was voted down by Democrats and I should very much like to know the particulars."<sup>169</sup>

The bulk of the work was about done by the end of March though contributions kept coming in during April, May and even June.<sup>170</sup> The Relief Committee met, in rooms furnished free of charge in the Savery Hotel, <sup>171</sup> on March 30. The Treasurer turned over \$5,450.00, and it was resolved to buy and ship another 33 cars of corn. Any balance left over would be sent to Clara Barton and no more corn would be bought after March 31, but further donations would be converted to cash. It was also resolved at this meet-

<sup>165</sup> Signed by Alexander Charles, chairman at Cedar Rapids.

<sup>166</sup> Letter, J. J. Fleming to BFT, Feb. 15, 1892.

<sup>167</sup> Letter, C. R. Benedict to BFT, Feb. 22, 1892.

<sup>168</sup> Letter to BFT, Feb. . . . 1892; "Important Instructions" issued by the Secretary, Iowa Famine Relief Commission.

<sup>169</sup> Letter to Richardson Bros., Davenport, July 22, 1892.

<sup>170</sup> Cashier of First National Bank in Chariton forwarded \$6.05 to Governor Boies, June 17, 1892, for Russian relief.

<sup>171</sup> Letter, W. L. Brown, manager, to BFT, Mar. 19, 1892.





ing that Tillinghast would go to New York to assist in making the shipping arrangements for the Iowa donation. The Committee voted him \$300 for expenses.

In New York an agreement was drawn up on April 19 between Simpson, Spence and Young and the American National Red Cross to ship the corn. The Tynehead was chartered and the amount put on board, as receipted by the shipping agents, was 116,357 "bushels of corn in bulk."<sup>172</sup> Tillinghast said, a couple of years later, that there were "225 carloads, exceeding 500 bushels each," in the shipment.<sup>173</sup> This was then approximately correct. He had been given power of attorney and a check for \$20,000 to pay for the charter and insurance, by Clara Barton. "The value placed on the cargo and charter," wrote Tillinghast, "was \$83,500. The cost of the charter was \$12,651.62."<sup>174</sup> This latter figure, though sustained by Washington, D. C., and not Iowa, was given as \$13,200 in an article in the *Davenport Democrat*.<sup>175</sup>

Appropriately, the captain of the Tynehead, John Thomas Tertius Carr, was of Russian stock, though born in Britain.<sup>176</sup> An address was made by Miss Barton on that second of May when the ship was ready to sail. She said that this was but "a tithe of the interest long due and joyously acknowledged." Tillinghast reported that feeling ran high for "there was not a man on that ship who had ever before been charged with the delivery of such a cargo."<sup>177</sup>

The Tynehead reached Riga on May 27. Dr. J. B. Hubbell, General Field Agent of the American Red Cross, who had started for Russia on April 9, was already there and tendered the Iowa food donation to General Kaufmann, President of the Red Cross of Russia. While American flags were flying, he said that

<sup>172</sup> Calkins, *op. cit.*, said 7,000,000 pounds of corn.

<sup>173</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 334.

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 337.

<sup>175</sup> May 2, 1892.

<sup>176</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 338; Vol II, p. 410. Tillinghast in his first article calls him "a Briton," but in the second article says that his father and grandfather were both Russian consuls at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

<sup>177</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 339.



the Iowans had perhaps felt that the rains which had been withheld "from their brothers in Russia have given the increase to their own crops . . . Our people as a people never forget that Russia has always been the friend of America."<sup>178</sup>

#### CONCLUSION

Precisely how much Iowa gave is impossible to determine. As mentioned earlier, some flour was given via the shipment from Minneapolis and some funds were sent directly to Russia. Tillinghast estimated that "at least \$5000.00 was forwarded to Russia by individuals and church societies which did not pass through the Iowa Commission."<sup>179</sup> After all the corn had been bought, the state treasurer still turned in \$4,959, which was sent to Clara Barton. Tillinghast concluded that, "population considered, the total realized was larger than the aggregate of any other state."<sup>180</sup> In addition to corn, \$16,123.81 was reported by the Auxiliary as collected.<sup>181</sup> Much of this however, was done by the regular Commission, and so reported. If the total was 225 carloads of corn, \$4,959 in cash to Clara Barton, \$5,000 in direct money gifts to Russia, and some account taken of the time and energy of the workers, it could safely be said that Iowa donated about \$100,000 to the relief.<sup>182</sup> This would be a most conservative estimate.

And of course, of the workers, B. F. Tillinghast was no doubt the most energetic. He gave about five months of his time and about a thousand dollars of his money to the cause, if we can rely on the testimony of his colleague;<sup>183</sup> the two volumes of correspondence would tend to bear that out. Charles Shaw of the Chicago Committee of the Central Traffic Association, in asking for extra copies of the final report of the Famine Relief Commission, wrote: "You have no idea the amount of

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 418.

<sup>179</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 411; The 3rd district sent \$1023.05 directly to Russia.

<sup>180</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>181</sup> Report to the Governor.

<sup>182</sup> It might be well to bear in mind that the dollar at that time had many times the purchasing power of the dollar today.

<sup>183</sup> Calkins, *op. cit.*





labor and expense our lines were put to for this noble work, which, so far as I am concerned, you were at the head.”<sup>184</sup> W. H. Babcock, an attorney in Washington, D.C., wrote: “Certainly Iowa’s work has been altogether exceptional and admirable; and Miss Barton seems to attribute it in great measure to your efforts. She might not wish me to repeat precisely what she said; but it would be anything but displeasing to you.”<sup>185</sup> “Much of the success of the matter is do to you,” wrote Governor Boies to Tillinghast.<sup>186</sup> In 1902 Tillinghast was named as one of four American delegates to the International Conference of the Red Cross held at St. Petersburg. At that time he and Clara Barton were received by the Czar and Czarina.

Tillinghast seems to have been an energetic and enthusiastic person. He worked himself up from frail health to being something of an athlete; he was a member of the Moline Boat Club and helped organize the Davenport Outing Club. His colleague also recalled that he did some trapshooting and that “he got the bicycle fever during the prevalence of that epidemic.”<sup>187</sup> At the time of the Johnstown flood he was responsible for collecting over \$5000 within a week. He also solicited help for the victims of a tornado in northwestern Iowa and for a rice famine in India. But either his enthusiasm got the best of him or he did not want to offend the sensibilities of those who gave only from charitable motives, when just two years after the relief work he wrote: “no mercenary or even commercial consideration was thought of by any person who gave money, corn or other contribution to the famishing peasants in Russia.”<sup>188</sup>

The reasons why many Iowans gave money and corn to the starving Russians were several, and not simple. Most of the time, money, effort and corn were no doubt

<sup>184</sup> Letter to BFT, June 6, 1892.

<sup>185</sup> Letter to BFT, Mar. 21, 1892.

<sup>186</sup> Gov. Boies’ private secretary to BFT, Feb. 23, 1892.

<sup>187</sup> Calkins, *op. cit.*

<sup>188</sup> Tillinghast, *op. cit.*, p. 327.

given in the true spirit of charity. The dying woman in Kossuth county who asked for an inexpensive funeral so that ten dollars might be left for Russian relief,<sup>189</sup> was probably not considering some subsequent reward in this world. The many private letters, quite obviously not intended for publication, which make reference to "this noble work," or to the "sweet mercy that should drop like the rain of heaven,"<sup>190</sup> one could take as sincere, and as evidences of charitable motives. It should not be surprising that the heart-rending accounts of the suffering in Russia would stir up much genuine sympathy.

However as we have seen, there were also some who had other motives in mind—though this does not mean that they would be excluded from also having charitable motivations. Tillinghast himself wrote to the governor that the more he thought "of what a grand opportunity Iowa has to introduce abroad its staple product" the more he was willing to exert himself.<sup>191</sup> Secretary Rusk wrote to Tillinghast to thank him for his expression of appreciation "of my efforts to enlarge the foreign market for our great American staple."<sup>192</sup> Other Iowans also shared this awareness of commercial possibilities. "Iowa will be judged abroad by the quality as well as the quantity of its donations," wrote the chairman at Cedar Rapids.<sup>193</sup> The possibility of creating a market for corn in Europe was not at all overlooked—some who cast their bread upon the waters not only hoped, but expected, that it would come back a hundred fold.

It is difficult, to say the least, to know to what extent the press reflects public opinion; yet, it probably does to some extent, and to the extent that it did so in 1891-92, we could say that gratitude was also a motive—or an aid to charity. Gratitude to God for the biggest

<sup>189</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 334.

<sup>190</sup> Letter, Cora Weed to BFT, Jan. 4, 1892.

<sup>191</sup> Dec. 23, 1891.

<sup>192</sup> Letter, Feb. 8, 1892.

<sup>193</sup> Letter, Charles Alexander to BFT, Feb. 13, 1892.







crop at the best price in our history, was stressed in numerous editorials. Out of a sense of gratitude, we should be willing to share our abundance; who could really enjoy a feast, knowing that his neighbor was starving? There was also a considerable emphasis on gratitude to the Russians for the fact that they had supported us, in contrast to England and France, during our great Civil war. Whether this aid was genuine or but "a myth"<sup>194</sup> is not relevant; the fact is that it was stressed in almost all editorials and speeches.

Some individuals engaged in the work of relief may of course have also been motivated by a desire for distinction in their own communities; many of the letters appointing district chairmen were answered with expressions of gratitude for the "honor" that the governor bestowed upon the recipient. Yet, we can believe that this was not an overriding factor for all, since it was often so difficult to find relief workers and many resigned.

Patriotism was another motive. Giving aid to the Russians was urged as "a most patriotic duty"<sup>195</sup> by our Minister Andrew D. White, and Tillinghast made reference to patriotic reasons both in his personal letter to the governor<sup>196</sup> and in his form letter to the county workers in the Ninth district.<sup>197</sup> In so far as the work of relief created international good will, those who participated in it were certainly good citizens. But perhaps state citizenship was even more important to many. In a letter to the governor, Tillinghast explained his interest in the work, in part, because of his love for Iowa.<sup>198</sup> Pride in Iowa, if not a first contributor, at least a most formidable one, is reflected in much of the correspondence and in many of the editorials.

There were also important circumstances that no doubt influenced the Iowans to give. The Message of

<sup>194</sup> Bailey, *op. cit.*

<sup>195</sup> Letter to BFT, Dec. 28, 1891.

<sup>196</sup> Jan. 17, 1892.

<sup>197</sup> Jan. 25, 1892.

<sup>198</sup> Jan. 28, 1892.

the President of the United States, the existence of the Russian Famine Relief Committee of the United States, the earlier example of the Minneapolis flour people, a record crop in Iowa, then, on top of all this, Thanksgiving and Christmas—not even Scrooge could have stood idly by. Hostile feelings about the Russian government and particularly about its treatment of Jews and Germans, and the action of Democrats in the Congress of the United States and in Iowa's General Assembly, were overpowered by the thought of over thirty millions of Russian people in great suffering.

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### Willson Alexander Scott

June 23rd will mark the centennial of the death of Willson (or Wilson) Alexander Scott, a founder of the city of Des Moines and the man responsible for the site of the state capitol. In memorium, let us reflect, one hundred years later, upon the vision and industry of "Aleck" Scott, a true founding father on the Iowa frontier.

The ambitious young Scott moved to Fort Des Moines on the heels of the Dragoons in 1843, and soon envisioned its potential development. He prospered in business, becoming a prominent figure in the building of early Des Moines. Realizing the possibilities, he became a leader in 1855 in the movement that successfully brought the center of government to Des Moines, donating the land on what is now know as Capitol Hill and spending overly of his own resources to effect the transfer. Scott lost much of his property during the hard times that came in 1857. Still daring of spirit, he joined the Pike's Peak gold rush in 1859, but death overtook him on the way.

Willson Alexander Scott's grave, largely forgotten by the present generation, is located on the bluff at the south edge of the Capitol grounds overlooking the city to which he contributed so much—a man who symbolizes the aggressive spirit of the Iowa pioneer.





# Development of the Grange in Iowa, 1868-1930

By MYRTLE BEINHAUER\*

Since Iowa is an agricultural state, it is understandable that early interest in the improvement of rural life and production was evidenced. Soon after Iowa Territory was created, the landowner turned his attention to the improvement of his status. The Territory was first open for settlement in 1833. By 1838, its First General Assembly passed a law providing for the organization of county agricultural societies.

The farmer showed continued interest in improving his product, his way of life, and his economic status. Throughout the years the Iowa farmer has organized and supported societies dedicated to the improvement of agricultural pursuits and the general welfare of the rural population. Predominately, in the early years of Iowa's development, these organizations emphasized improvement of the farmer's lot through education, but they could not avoid economic and political activities. Later, there appeared societies whose primary concern was the economic problems of the farmer, and still others which were basically political in nature.

## THE ORIGIN OF THE GRANGER MOVEMENT

The second oldest agricultural society in Iowa is the Grange, which was founded in 1868.<sup>1</sup> This organization, having had its inception in Washington, D.C. among government officials, is national in scope and, when once started, it found hearty support in Iowa.

Conditions in the South gave rise to the Granger movement. After the Civil war the farmers of America, particularly those in the South, were suffering from hardships and losses. Because of their circumstances, President Johnson, in 1866, authorized the Commissioner

\*Assistant professor of economics, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

<sup>1</sup> The oldest is the Horticultural Society, founded in 1866.

of Agriculture to send a clerk through the South to procure "statistical and other information from those states."<sup>2</sup>

Oliver Hudson Kelley was selected for this mission. He not only noted the farmers' financial distress, but was struck by "their blind disposition to do as their grandfathers had done, their antiquated methods of agriculture, and most of all by their apathy."<sup>3</sup> Kelley pondered the situation of the southern farmers and initiated an organization for them based upon the Masonic Order of which he was a member. He interested some of his friends in the idea and, in 1867, seven men, "one fruit grower and six government clerks, equally distributed among the Post Office, Treasury, and Agricultural Departments," founded the Grange.<sup>4</sup> These men were: O. H. Kelley and W. M. Ireland of the Post Office Department, William Saunders and Rev. A. B. Grosh of the Agricultural Bureau, Rev. John Trimble and J. R. Thompson of the Treasury Department, and F. M. McDowell, a pomologist of Wayne, New York.<sup>5</sup> On December 4, 1867 they framed the constitution which was the official beginning of the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry.

The purpose of the Grange was the advancement of agriculture through education rather than through politics. With this idea in mind, the men began organizing the farmers according to their new plan. At first progress was slow, but agricultural conditions were so deplorable that the farmer, nearly desperate, was ready to try almost anything to improve them, and before long the Granger movement was in full swing. In Iowa and the surrounding states, it was particularly successful. Dissatisfaction in the midwest was so great that the farmers of this region accepted the organization more readily than those of other sections of the United States.

<sup>2</sup> Solon J. Buck, *The Agrarian Crusade* (Vol. 45 of *The Chronicles of America Series*; New Haven: Yale University Press, 1919), p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.







## CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF THE GRANGE

According to W. A. Anderson, in his article "The Granger Movement," there were economic, political, social, educational, and psychological reasons for the Grange's rapid growth in America.<sup>6</sup> Of these, the economic factors were the most vexing to the farmer, with his most bitter grievance against the railroads. The farmer must market his produce and, in an effort to secure better transportation facilities for his goods, he had supported the railroads, investing large sums in them. He was disappointed in his investment, for he did not receive dividends, nor were his shipping rates lowered.<sup>7</sup>

The railroads had their problems also. Traffic was not great, competition was keen and, in their effort to realize a profit, they discriminated in rates between various towns and customers. Persons shipping to distant points were charged lower rates than those shipping short distances. Thus developed the so-called "long and short haul" discrimination. Again, persons frequently shipping large amounts were given lower rates or, if charged the same rates, were given rebates. These practices incensed the farmer,<sup>8</sup> who was not a beneficiary. In addition, passengers were treated discourteously. Accommodations for them were inadequate, and the conductors and brakemen were rude to them.

The low price of farm produce caused by overproduction during the Civil war and the aftermath of the Reconstruction period contributed to the discontent. During the war between the states, farm products had been in great demand and their prices were high but, with the close of the war, the demand for these products decreased without a corresponding decrease in their production; so naturally prices fell. Martin, writing in the decade of the 70's, said, "One of the principal causes of the great distress prevailing among the farming in-

<sup>6</sup> W. A. Anderson, "The Granger Movement," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, Vol. 22. (January, 1924), p. 9.

<sup>7</sup> Solon J. Buck, *The Granger Movement* (Vol. 19 of *Harvard Historical Series*; Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1913), p. 294.

<sup>8</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 5.

terest today is the low price which the farmer receives for his product."<sup>9</sup>

On the other hand, while the farmer was getting a low price for his products, the middleman was making handsome profits, or so it seemed to the unhappy farmer. Martin expressed the sentiment of the time when he said:

Now the truth is, that of all the profits we have enumerated, (miller's, merchant's, and farmer's) that of the farmer is the smallest and the most unfair. It is not in proportion to that of the merchant or miller. He is robbed by the railroads in the first instance, and in the next place his price is kept down in order that the grain merchant and the miller may enlarge their profits.<sup>10</sup>

Depreciated currency was a third reason for complaint. Many farmers had contracted debts during the Civil war when prices were high and currency was inflated. These debts had to be paid with goods. With the return to peace, money began to appreciate in value which was equivalent to a decrease in prices. Naturally, if a product was worth only 50 per cent of its former value, it would require twice as much to pay a given debt. This meant that, while the dollar amount of the debt had not increased, the lower price of goods had the effect of increasing the indebtedness. Greater purchasing power was paid the creditor than he had loaned and, conversely, the debtor farmer repaid greater purchasing power than he had borrowed. With falling prices, it became increasingly difficult for the farmer to meet his obligations plus the seemingly exorbitant interest rates.

Finally, among the economic reasons for dissatisfaction were high taxes. To defray the cost of the Civil war, the government needed more money. Taxes rose. Theoretically, taxes on all property were increased during the period of strife, but in reality the farmer felt the burden most keenly because his property was

<sup>9</sup> Edward W. Martin, (pen name of James Dabney McCabe), *History of the Grange Movement* (San Francisco: National Publishing Company through A. F. Bancroft Company, 1873), p. 294.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 295.





chiefly in land which was easily assessed. On the other hand, possessors of intangible property were able to avoid taxes on a large portion of their holdings since they could easily be concealed.<sup>11</sup>

The next group of causes of discontent among farmers, in order of importance, was the political. Anderson accredited this to the fact that the farmer was under-represented in the legislature. To prove his point he stated that the farmers were represented by one legislative member to every 228,000 persons, while professional men were represented by one to every 10,800, and trade and industry by one to every 26,000.<sup>12</sup> It is the opinion of Buck that, at this period, the farmer was looked upon as a stable element whose vote could be depended upon for the party, and hence his interests received little consideration from the politician.<sup>13</sup>

The remaining causes of discontent, while seemingly minor, were nevertheless significant. Educationally and socially great differences existed between rural and urban populations. Rural communities were comparatively isolated and had fewer school facilities than the towns. Consequently, they did not enjoy the social and educational advantages of the urban districts, and they felt the apparent class distinction between themselves and their city cousins.<sup>14</sup> Psychologically, the extreme individualism of the farmer increased his discontent and dissatisfaction, but at the same time, it made him more willing to support an organization whose purpose was to better the then existing conditions.<sup>15</sup>

#### GROWTH OF THE GRANGER MOVEMENT IN IOWA

With the farmers of the country so obviously disgruntled, the Grange found fertile soil, especially in Iowa, where agriculture was the chief occupation. Iowa claims the oldest Grange west of the Mississippi River,

<sup>11</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 6.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8.

<sup>13</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, p. 36.

<sup>14</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 8.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.



that of Buena Vista, located about four miles from Newton.<sup>16</sup> This Grange came into existence when A. Failor of Newton, on May 2, 1868, sent the required \$15.00 fee to Washington, D.C. and secured a charter for the Newton group.<sup>17</sup> This was soon followed by a second Grange, established at Pottsville October, 1869. Later that same year, Kelley himself organized a third at Waukon.

During the year 1870, largely through the efforts of General W. D. Wilson, nine more Granges were added, making a total of twelve such organizations in Iowa.<sup>18</sup> On January 12, 1871, representatives of these twelve local groups organized the Iowa State Grange with Dudley W. Adams, Master and General W. D. Wilson, Secretary.<sup>19</sup> At this time the enthusiastic members planned to organize the entire state into local Granges and to work through them to redress the grievances of the farmer. As a result of their ardor and activity, the number of Granges in Iowa reached thirty-seven by April, 1871; by the end of that year, 102 locals had been instituted.<sup>20</sup> Within another year, over one-half the Granges in the entire United States were in Iowa; of the 1,150 local Granges in existence, 652 were in Iowa.<sup>21</sup> This surprising development was revealed by Martin when he reported that, "the most remarkable growth was manifest in the state of Iowa, in which as many as eighty Granges per week were organized at one period of the present year [1873]."<sup>22</sup>

The following chart shows the singular growth of the Grange in Iowa.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Letter, F. L. Hummel, Master of the Iowa State Grange, to Myrtle Beinhauer, February 16, 1931.

<sup>17</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 13.

<sup>18</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, p. 49.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 50. The State Grange held its first meeting after its organization meeting, September 14, 1871.

<sup>20</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 13.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

<sup>22</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 410.

<sup>23</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, chart between 58 and 59.





## THE GROWTH OF LOCAL GRANGES IN IOWA, 1873-1874

DATE	NO. OF LOCAL GRANGES
May '73	1507
Aug. '73	1763
Oct. '73	1818
Mar. '74	1918
Sept. '74	1991

Another way to demonstrate the spectacular development of the Granger movement in Iowa is to compare it with the growth in other midwestern states as is done in the following table.<sup>24</sup>

## THE GROWTH OF LOCAL GRANGES IN MIDWESTERN STATES, 1873-1874

State	MAY 1873	AUG. 1873	MAR. 1874	SEPT. 1874
Iowa	1506	1763	1918	1999
Minnesota	219	327	467	538
Missouri	245	483	1807	1976
Kansas	128	399	1073	1350
Nebraska	100	300	504	596
Illinois	431	562	1148	1503
Indiana	142	266	1502	1987
Ohio	47	80	594	1014
Michigan	24	40	284	496
Wisconsin	140	189	410	504
Dakota Territory	8	11	47	56

## PHILOSOPHY OF THE GRANGE

The Grange, as organized, was a fraternal organization and, therefore, a secret society exclusively for the farmer. Its signs and its symbols played upon the imagination and, since social contacts of the farmer were few at the time of its origin, it filled a need of the period and became distinctly a farmer's club. Membership in the Grange gave a certain glamour and distinction to an otherwise drab existence. At its monthly meetings, the farmer forgot some of the dull monotony of his existence and eagerly participated in the com-mony and business of the organization.

<sup>24</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 15.

Its purpose, as expressed in the declaration of the National Grange adopted at St. Louis in 1874, was:

... to foster mutual understanding and cooperation, to buy less and produce more in order to make our farms self-sustaining, to diversify our crops, to act together for our mutual protection and advancement, as occasion may require, to dispense with a surplus of middlemen and bring producers and consumers, farmers and manufacturers into the most direct and friendly relations possible<sup>25</sup> and to advance education among ourselves and our children.<sup>26</sup>

As has been implied, the Grange was composed of the local, the state, and the national Grange units. The local Grange was, of course, the smallest. Anyone interested in agricultural pursuits, male, 16, and female, 18, might become a member,<sup>27</sup> after having paid a membership fee of five dollars for men and two dollars for women.<sup>28</sup>

The membership of the Order is confined to persons engaged in agricultural pursuits. This limitation is necessary as the success of the Order depends upon the unity of interests existing among its members. There must be a common object and a common incentive to attain the fulfillment of that object.<sup>29</sup>

A charter could be issued a local Grange when at least nine men and four women had pledged themselves to membership, that is, when there were enough persons to fill the offices of a local unit. These officers were Master, Overseer, Lecturer, Steward, Assistant Steward, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, and Gatekeeper, filled by men, and Ceres, Pomona, Flora, and Lady Assistant Steward, held by women.<sup>30</sup>

Originally the subordinate Grange conferred four degrees:

<sup>25</sup> National Grange, *Declaration of Purposes*, pp. 1, 2 (Adopted at St. Louis in 1874).

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 434.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 434.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 422.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 423.







DEGREE	MEN	WOMEN
First	Laborer	Maid
Second	Cultivator	Shepherdess
Third	Harvester	Gleaner
Fourth	Husbandman	Matron

The members assure us that each rank was conferred with a beautiful, elaborate, and appropriate ceremony. Although the Grange was a secret organization, we have learned that the "ritual is intended to symbolize man in his upward progress toward a better and higher condition."<sup>31</sup> According to the philosophy contained in the ritual, man's moral and economic development are similar. Man began life as a barbarian. At first he lived by hunting and fishing and was often hungry, but gradually he learned that by laboring, by collecting flocks, and by tilling the soil, he could be assured of plenty. As a result, man began cultivating the soil. As the earth in its primitive state is unfit to bring forth products, so the mind of man without training is unfit to develop moral men and women. As the soil must be prepared to receive the seed, so the mind must be prepared to receive moral truths. Therefore, in the first degree, confidence in intelligent guidance, perseverance in overcoming difficulties, faith in his teacher and guide, and the lesson of fraternity were implanted in the mind.

In the second degree, emphasis was placed upon charity. Just as all soils do not yield the same quantity nor quality of a product, all men do not respond in the same way to their environment. The influences on human life are varied and the result is that human character is diversified. Hence, the members of the Grange were taught to be charitable to their fellow-men.

The third degree was that of the Harvester. After the seed had been planted and grown to maturity, harvest began. The members were assured that for every problem of life there is a solution which comes with the same regularity and certainty as the annual

<sup>31</sup> Smedley, *Manual of Jurisprudence and Co-operation of the Patrons of Husbandry*, p. 84.

harvest in the agricultural world if they will but wait for it. Consequently, they were taught to await patiently the solution of their problems and not let the mind go forth into the future seeking for evil, or anticipating darkness which may never materialize, or when confronted is easily overcome. "A well-balanced mind will look every difficulty which really presents itself, squarely in the face, and use all honorable and legitimate means to surmount it or put it aside; but a constant going out into the future to borrow trouble is unworthy."<sup>32</sup>

The lessons taught in these three degrees were designed to fit the individual for the high moral obligations of citizenship; so to be a Matron or a Husbandman was to occupy a position which could only be reached by study and appreciation of its character. The members learned that:

. . . trust and confidence in each other is essential to growth; that intelligent well-directed labor, a wise understanding of the laws of nature and their operation, are of vital importance and an absolute necessity . . . that we are but the stewards of God's gifts, that we are to be wise in dispensing as well as earnest in gathering, and . . . that only by intelligent action can we hope for success.<sup>33</sup>

"Having reached this point we come to comprehend our duty as neighbors, as parents, as friends and as citizens, together with our relations to our country."<sup>34</sup> Love of country was shown by participation in a variety of activities as an occupation, sports, and culture. Beautifying the home was studied. The Matron learned the training of the "immortal soul" of her child for "the responsibilities and duties of life."<sup>35</sup> The Golden Rule was taught. These teachings were designed to improve the moral life of the members and "when the principles of our Order are fully understood, when

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 92.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 93.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 93.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 95.





its aims and its purposes are reached, wrong doing will scarcely be possible."<sup>36</sup>

By 1875 the ritual was revised to permit the locals to confer a fifth degree, Pomona, originally conferred by the State Grange and open only to Masters and their wives. This change was made because the State Grange met only once a year with only a few of the Masters present. Because of the infrequency of meetings and the small attendance, the membership felt "the enjoyments and instructions of the real work of the degree were in a great measure lost."<sup>37</sup> It was believed that on a local level more would participate; hence the change would be beneficial to both the individual and the organization.

A Pomona Grange could be organized after nine men and four women petitioned the secretary of the State Grange for such an organization. As originally planned all Masters and Past-Masters and their wives who were Matrons, were eligible to membership. In addition, fourth degree members were admitted to membership if, after examination by a special committee, they were found to be sufficiently versed in the ritualistic and unwritten work.

This Grange was to aid and to strengthen the subordinate Granges within its jurisdiction and to look carefully to their interests. Further, this unit was to try all members of the subordinate Granges within its jurisdiction for any offense or misconduct.<sup>38</sup>

Above the local was the State Grange, which could be organized when a state had a total of fifteen or more locals.<sup>39</sup> The membership of this group comprised the Masters and Past-Masters of the local Granges.<sup>40</sup> The

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 96.

<sup>37</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 36 (Constitution of the Grange, Article IX, Section 5).

<sup>38</sup> Smedley, *op. cit.*, p. 102.

<sup>39</sup> This is the requirement according to the national constitution adopted in 1873, but apparently this provision was not effective before that time because the Iowa State Grange was organized in 1871 with only twelve locals.

<sup>40</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 436 (Constitution of the Grange, Article IX, Section 5).

offices of the State Grange were the same as those of the local, but the officers were elected biennially instead of annually.<sup>41</sup>

Uniting all State Granges was the National Grange, which was composed of the Masters and Past-Masters of the State Granges.<sup>42</sup> This division also met annually and followed the same patterns of organization as the other units, with its officers elected triennially.<sup>43</sup> In 1930 the annual meeting of the National Grange was held at Rochester, New York with approximately 30,000 persons attending.<sup>44</sup>

The National Grange bestowed the sixth and seventh degrees. They were Flora (Charity), conferred upon the Masters of the State Granges and their wives who held the rank of Pomona; and Ceres (Faith), bestowed upon any member of the National Grange who had served one year.<sup>45</sup>

The Grange also had a Juvenile Division for children between the ages of five and fourteen organized in a manner similar to the adult branch of the Order.<sup>46</sup> Each Juvenile Division carried on its own secret work and had educational programs in which its members participated. The work of the division was under the direction of the young people themselves although supervised by an adult.<sup>47</sup> At their monthly meetings, just as at the adult meetings, parliamentary law, book reviews, and subjects of the day, as well as farm problems, were discussed. In this way, the Grange attempted to make better farmers and better citizens of the rural youth of the nation. All locals did not have a Juvenile Division but apparently records were not complete, for in a letter to the author, Mr. Hummel

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 433.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 423.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>44</sup> Letter, F. L. Hummel, Master of the Iowa State Grange, to Myrtle Beinhauer, August 17, 1931 (Ms. form).

<sup>45</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 424.

<sup>46</sup> Letter, F. L. Hummel, Master of the Iowa State Grange, to Myrtle Beinhauer, February 16, 1931. (Ms. form).

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*







stated that in 1930 it was impossible to ascertain the exact number of Juvenile Divisions in Iowa.<sup>48</sup>

The entire Grange organization was supported by the membership fees collected by the local Granges, which were five dollars for men and two for women. The support of the State and National Granges is described by Martin in the following manner:

The treasurer of the subordinate Grange is required to pay to the State Grange the sum of \$1 for each man, and fifty cents for each woman initiated into the Grange, such payments being made quarterly. He is also required to pay a quarterly due of six cents for each member.

Each State Grange is required to pay to the National Grange in quarterly installments, the annual due of ten cents for each member of the Order within its jurisdiction. The funds of the Order are guarded by a series of judicious regulations, and their proper administration is thus guaranteed.<sup>49</sup>

#### POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Grange filled a social and educational need, but from its inception, it was interested in the political and economic questions of the day. One of its more important activities in its early years was in connection with the railroads. Naturally, the question of transportation was important to the farmer. As has already been stated, the railroads discriminated between customers and points of shipment. They charged what the farmer considered unjust rates on farm produce. By 1864 the farmer was complaining loudly about these injustices and was asking that the state legislature regulate railroad rates. The Iowa General Assembly claimed authority to regulate railroad activity under the laws of 1856 and 1866<sup>50</sup> which stated that any company accepting a land grant would be subject to any regulation the legislature might place upon it. Consequently the Assembly made its first attempt to fix

<sup>48</sup> Letter, F. L. Hummel, Master of the Iowa State Grange, to Myrtle Beinhauer, August 17, 1931.

<sup>49</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, pp. 424-25.

<sup>50</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1856, Ex. Sess., Chap. I; *Laws of Iowa*, 1866, Chap. 137, Section 7.

railroad rates in 1866. This bill passed the house but was rejected in the senate.<sup>51</sup> By 1870 three rate bills had been passed in the house, but each was defeated in the senate.<sup>52</sup>

Feeling became so vehement that in 1870 and 1871 both political parties included the issue in their platforms, declaring the right of the state to control railroads and calling for the exercise of that right. Other attempts were made in 1872 to fix rates, but each bill met the fate of its predecessor. With continued failure the legislature was inclined to discontinue its efforts, but the Iowa Grange was persistent. During the special session of 1873, the Grange memorialized the General Assembly to enact a law "to protect the people from outrageous discrimination and exorbitant charges."<sup>53</sup>

During the summer of 1873, the Grange's demand for railroad regulation and agricultural cooperation resulted in the organization of the Anti-Monopoly party.<sup>54</sup> This party demanded that the state legislature fix the maximum freight rates of the railroads of Iowa, permitting them to compete below those rates.<sup>55</sup> In the fall, fifty of the one hundred legislators elected to the Iowa General Assembly were members of the Anti-Monopoly party, while seventy of them were members of the Grange. With this dominance of agricultural interest, the legislature found it possible to enact a bill, effective July 4, 1874, which divided the railroads of Iowa into three classes: A, those with gross earnings of \$4,000 per mile; B, those with gross earnings between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per mile; and C, those with gross earnings of \$3,000 or less per mile. A detailed rate schedule was given. Each company was to post classification and schedules of fares, and make an annual report to the governor of the state, giving its gross receipts.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>51</sup> Iowa Senate, *Journal*, 1866: 25, 495, 540, 661; Iowa House, *Journal*, 1866: 59, 184, 235, 290, 438-56, 517, 764.

<sup>52</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 23.

<sup>53</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, p. 169.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 513 (Platform Anti-Monopoly Party).

<sup>56</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1874, Chap. 68.





The railroads protested the law, claiming that the rates were too low for them to operate profitably. The law was not successful. The opposition of the railroad officials was so vehement and the administrative machinery so weak that the law was repealed four years after its passage.<sup>57</sup>

Even though the law was revoked its impact was felt in Iowa's economic philosophy. It was held constitutional by the courts. It established the principle that the state had the right to regulate business, and that, until congress acted, the state could regulate interstate commerce so far as its own citizens were affected.

While the railroad legislation sponsored by the Grange is its most notable work, the Grange sought other legislation. For example, it favored and helped to enact prohibition into law. For years it supported a state income tax for Iowa which was eventually passed. It worked for several years, though unsuccessfully, to make military training in the state college optional. Other measures it supported were the abolition of the county assessor and the popular election of the county superintendent of schools.<sup>58</sup> While this is not a complete list of the Grange's legislative program, it does give an idea of its scope.

The Grange set up a systematic organization for presenting its bills to the legislature. First, needed changes were discussed in the local Grange, and a resolution embodying these needs was sent to the state legislative committee located at the state capitol. If the issue was of nation-wide interest, the resolution was sent to the national committee at Washington, D. C. The Grange did not use the lobby extensively nor did it resort to propaganda campaigns in behalf of, or in opposition to, pending legislative measures. It merely sought to bring its viewpoint and desires before the legislators.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>57</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1878, Chap. 77.

<sup>58</sup> Letter, F. L. Hummel, Master of the Iowa State Grange, to Myrtle Beinhauer, August 17, 1931. (Ms. form).

<sup>59</sup> National Grange, *The Grange in Legislation*, p. 1.

## COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES

Following their avowed purpose "to foster cooperation," the farmers undertook cooperative buying and selling enterprises. Iowa was the first state in which Grange cooperatives achieved marked success.<sup>60</sup> The first cooperative effort of the farmer was the purchasing of large quantities of goods from the local dealers. Later a county agent was appointed who took orders for his community and, with growing success, a state agent was employed. The first agent was J. D. Whitman, appointed in 1872, who maintained headquarters at Des Moines.<sup>61</sup>

Through cooperative buying large amounts were saved the farmer. According to Martin, "It is safe to say . . . that the purchases have amounted to many thousands, and that not less than \$50,000 have been saved to the farmers of the state, within a year in the purchase of plows and cultivators alone."<sup>62</sup> Not only were there savings on these implements, but large discounts were also received on other commodities. It is estimated that 40 per cent was saved on sewing machines; 20 to 25 per cent on parlor organs; 15 per cent on shellers; 20 per cent on wagons; 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent on hay forks; and 25 per cent on implements. General Wilson, Secretary of the State Grange, thought that by 1873 two million dollars had been saved through cooperatives.<sup>63</sup>

By 1874 cooperative buying had reached its peak. It is estimated that for that year the volume of business transacted by the Grange reached the five million dollar mark.<sup>64</sup> It is remarkable that a new enterprise should have grown to this extent in two years. Especially is this development noteworthy because it was the first experience with cooperatives in Iowa. The

<sup>60</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, p. 243.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> Martin, *op. cit.*, p. 476.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 477.

<sup>64</sup> This amount includes the amount of business handled both in buying and selling.







singular achievement of this new experiment for 1874 is shown in the following summary:<sup>65</sup>

PURCHASES AND SAVINGS MADE BY THE GRANGE COOPERATIVES  
IN IOWA 1874

PRODUCT BOUGHT	AMOUNT PAID	PER CENT OF SAVING
Farm implements _____	\$225,000	27
Farm supplies _____	445,612	18
Lumber _____	107,000	15

Cooperative selling developed hand in hand with buying and, even before State Agent J. D. Whitman was appointed in 1872, one-third of all the elevators and warehouses in Iowa were owned by the Granges.<sup>66</sup> To market farm produce, agents were located at New York and Chicago. They received all the Granges' shipments and sold them at the best possible price. For their services these agents received a 1 per cent commission. From the following chart, showing the amount of produce sold by these agents in 1874, it is evident that the farmer had the utmost confidence in cooperative selling:

AMOUNT OF PRODUCE SOLD AND GAIN MADE THROUGH  
GRANGE COOPERATIVES IN IOWA  
1874

PRODUCE SOLD	AMOUNT SOLD	PER CENT OF GAIN
Farm produce _____	\$3,234,000	11
Livestock _____	1,021,200	12

It was also in that successful year of 1874 that the Grange cooperatives embarked upon a venture which was to herald their downfall. It was then that the National Grange, led by the enthusiastic E. R. Shankland of Iowa, conceived the idea of manufacturing farm implements.<sup>67</sup> Manufacturing establishments were set up in Iowa and in other midwestern states. Attempts were made to manufacture plows, binders, harrows, and other agricultural machinery.

<sup>65</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 40.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 36.

<sup>67</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, p. 269.

For several reasons the Grange was unable to support such enterprises. First, it did not have enough capital to organize factories properly. Secondly, the market was too small. The Iowa factories could sell to Iowa farmers, but they could not sell to the farmers of other states for that was the market of the Grange manufacturing establishments of those states. The farmer used a machine several years. The number of farmers in Iowa was not increasing rapidly. Consequently, when the Grange factory had once supplied the farmer's needs, there would be little market for its product until the implements needed to be replaced several years later. In other words, the number of machines a factory could sell equalled the number of farmers in Iowa. Even then, each farmer was a prospective customer only once in approximately five years. Under these conditions, it is apparent that the market of these factories was too small to allow expansion of the plants or, for that matter, to cover costs. Thirdly, the farmer, to a great degree, needed to purchase seed and implements on credit. It was soon evident that the Grange manufacturing enterprises did not have sufficient capital to advance the necessary credit.

Because the factories did not have adequate capital nor income to meet the demands placed upon them, they failed. With their failure, faith was lost in all cooperative enterprises and the movement rapidly declined. Only three years after the inception of the cooperative movement, the Grange records stated that so few reports were made by the various business enterprises that it was impossible to make an accurate statement regarding the extent of their business, except that they had saved the farmer "many thousands."<sup>68</sup>

Although the cooperative efforts of the Grange were successful for a time and apparently saved large sums for the farmer, they were ultimately failures. In the first place, cooperative buying and selling required working together which was foreign to the independent

<sup>68</sup> Iowa State Grange, *Proceedings Sixth Annual Session*, 1875, p. 12.





spirit of the farmer who is first of all an individualist.<sup>69</sup> In the second place, many of the enterprises were not suitable for cooperatives. This was particularly true of manufacturing, as previously noted.<sup>70</sup> Third, the management of the cooperatives was in the hands of inexperienced persons whose frequent blunders caused large financial losses. Finally, the extensive credit needed by the farmer undermined cooperative buying and selling. The Grange at first insisted upon cash payments, while its competitors would sell on credit. When competition became too strong, the Grange was compelled to extend credit which, when once given, had to be continued. With the extension of credit and the resultant "bad debts," the financial condition of the cooperative system was greatly impaired.<sup>71</sup>

Although the cooperative efforts of the Grange ultimately failed, they were not without benefit. They resulted, temporarily, in large savings for the farmer and they showed the farmer that the hated middleman did perform beneficial and necessary services.

#### NONECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The Grange's opposition to the railroads and its cooperatives have without question, received most attention, but the Grange was also interested in educational and social pursuits, that is, in the general welfare of the community. This is in keeping with the organization's declared purpose "to educate and elevate the American farmer." The social activities were largely the monthly meetings and the annual Grange picnics which brought the farm families of a community together. Particularly was this important in the early period of Grange activity when recreation was scant and transportation difficult, forcing the farmer to stay home the greater part of the year. At these meetings, and especially at the annual Grange picnics, the members met to play, to gossip and to be entertained.

Education was also carried on through the programs

<sup>69</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, p. 274.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 274.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 276.



of the monthly meetings. Here, public speaking, parliamentary law, subjects of the day and the latest books, in addition to subjects pertaining to farm life, were discussed. As a part of the educational feature, the subordinate Granges were asked to send crop reports to the secretary of the State Grange, who in turn gave these reports to agricultural papers for dissemination. The reports thus compiled were claimed by some to be more accurate than those published by the government.<sup>72</sup> In an attempt to aid in the education of children, equipment and magazine subscriptions were given to schools.<sup>73</sup>

The Grange was also active in charitable work. One of its early projects was to provide for 980 families made destitute by the grasshopper plague of 1873.<sup>74</sup> In later days, it provided toys for children's homes, gave dinners to the poor, presented fruit and candy to the sick, supplied beds for hospitals, and furnished hot lunches for needy children in schools.<sup>75</sup>

#### DECLINE OF THE GRANGE

From 1875, the prestige of the Grange diminished in Iowa. There are a variety of causes for this decline: first, the business failures of the cooperative enterprises; second, legislation which proved unwise;<sup>76</sup> third, reaction to the very rapid growth during the years of 1873 and 1874;<sup>77</sup> fourth, the rapid growth resulted in a large membership which it was impossible to maintain;<sup>78</sup> fifth, politicians and other "outsiders" who were interested in their own gains rather than in the promotion of agriculture, crept into the organization.<sup>79</sup>

The startling rapidity of the Grange's decline in Iowa is shown in the following table:

<sup>72</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 45.

<sup>73</sup> National Grange, *The Grange and the Community*.

<sup>74</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 46.

<sup>75</sup> National Grange, *The Grange and the Community*.

<sup>76</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 46.

<sup>77</sup> Buck, *The Granger Movement*, p. 70.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 71.

<sup>79</sup> Anderson, *op. cit.*, p. 49.





THE RAPID DECLINE OF THE GRANGE MOVEMENT IN IOWA  
SHOWN BY THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LOCAL  
GRANGES, 1875-1892

YEAR	NUMBER OF LOCAL GRANGES
1875	1838
1876	1018
1885	8
1886	15
1887	36
1888	40
1889	37
1890	52
1891	31
1892	25

By 1930 the Grange was still moderately strong and active in Jasper county where the movement originated, and in Mahaska county, but elsewhere in Iowa its influence had diminished. During the '30's it was far more active in the eastern states than in the midwest<sup>81</sup> where it was once dominate. This fact can probably be accounted for in two ways. First, the leadership in Iowa was not as competent as in the eastern states. True, the leadership in Iowa was efficient in the early period, but it gradually fell into less capable hands, while in the East it was retained by able men. Second, growth in membership in the Grange was phenomenal in Iowa. When growth of any organization is unusually rapid, it is difficult to continue that growth or even maintain its strength. Facilities cannot expand to meet the needs or interests of all. Consequently, there is usually a correspondingly rapid decline in the organization. Such was the case with the Grange in Iowa, whereas strength was maintained in the East where it had grown more slowly. Third, Grange cooperatives in Iowa far outnumbered those of any other area. With the failure of large numbers of these enterprises, support of the entire Granger movement was withdrawn.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>81</sup> Interview, Carl Kennedy, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in Iowa, August, 1931.

In the East, with fewer business failures, reaction against the Grange was less violent.<sup>82</sup>

#### CONTRIBUTION OF THE GRANGE

There is no doubt but that the Grange rendered valuable service to the farmer, especially in the frontier days. It helped him to meet and to overcome many difficulties which were then confronting him. Specifically, it helped him to obtain legislative regulation of the railroad rates, which placed him in a more equitable position with respect to other shippers. Thus, he was able to realize greater benefits in the marketing of his crops.

Through education it encouraged him to increase his production and to broaden his life, and that of his family. It taught his wife to manage her household more efficiently and later, through the Juvenile Division, it taught his children to use to better advantage the opportunities which were offered them. When the Great Depression came, the Grange still felt that it had a great work to perform.<sup>83</sup> It hoped through its social, educational and legislative activities to make the farmer's home a more beautiful and profitable place in which to live.

<sup>82</sup> Interview, Carl Kennedy, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture of Iowa, August, 1931.

<sup>83</sup> Letter, F. L. Hummel, Master of the Iowa State Grange, to Myrtle Beinhauer, August 17, 1931.

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#### New Book on the Sac and Fox Indians

The Oklahoma University Press recently published a new study of *The Sac and Fox Indians*. Well written by William T. Hagan, professor of history at North Texas State College, it is amply documented and enhanced by several fine illustrations. The author limited his treatment of the Sac and Fox sojourn in Iowa, from 1833 to 1846, to one chapter. And oddly enough, he does not list any manuscript sources on his subject to be found in Iowa.







# Lincoln and the Harlan Family

By J. RAYMOND CHADWICK\*

Abraham Lincoln's life and decisions were influenced by the close friends of his day, one of the most outstanding of whom came from Iowa. I refer to none other than the friendship which existed between Lincoln and James Harlan, the first Republican senator from the state of Iowa. President of Iowa Wesleyan, 1853-55, during which he built "Old Main" Hall, and being elected in 1855 to the United States Senate, James Harlan was well acquainted in Washington circles when Abraham Lincoln arrived as President-elect. While the country was awaiting the inauguration of Lincoln a new and warm friendship began between him and Harlan. In selecting his first cabinet Lincoln sought the advice of Senator Harlan whom he had met only once before. During the years of the war the friendship between them deepened, so that at the second inaugural the Iowa Senator was chosen as an escort for Mrs. Lincoln; and Miss Mary Harlan was among the distinguished group surrounding the President.

Senator Harlan was also intimately connected with the President on the occasion of his last public appearance. It was only three days before the assassination. The President had announced that he would speak from the White House and a large audience gathered in front of the executive mansion. When the President ceased speaking, there were calls for Senator Sumner, but he was not present, and then Harlan was loudly called for.

Another indication of the close relationship between Senator Harlan and President Lincoln is revealed in the fact that Lincoln appointed Harlan as Secretary of the Interior in the spring of 1865, and even though Lincoln was assassinated before Harlan assumed the

\* Dr. Chadwick is president of Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. This article was adapted from his address before a joint session of the Iowa General Assembly commemorating the sesqui-centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

duties of this office, he filled it with distinction from May 15, 1865 to July 27, 1866, when he resigned because of his opposition to the policies of Johnson's administration.

The close personal quality of this friendship between James Harlan and President Lincoln is revealed in the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and Mr. and Mrs. Harlan often took drives together out into the country surrounding Washington, D.C.

The last drive which they took together was shortly after the fall of Richmond, when they crossed the Potomac river into Virginia through a country devastated by war. This drive, says Senator Harlan in his autobiographical papers, has become to me historical not only because it was the last drive of this nature which President Lincoln took, but also "because he had suddenly become, on the fall of Richmond and the surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox, a different man from what I had ever seen in him. His whole appearance, poise and bearing had marvelously changed. He was in fact transfigured. That indescribable sadness which had previously seemed to be an adamantean element in his very being, had been suddenly exchanged for an equally indescribable expression of serene joy as if conscious that the great purpose of his life had been achieved. . . . Yet there was no manifestation of exultation or ecstasy. He seemed the very personification of supreme satisfaction."

This close friendship between Senator Harlan and President Lincoln was recognized by the Senator's associates, when he was chosen a member of the Congressional Committee to escort the body of Lincoln, after his assassination, to Springfield, Illinois.

A few weeks later Harlan presided over a meeting of citizens who were interested in erecting a monument to Lincoln. An organization was formed and James Harlan was chosen president.

But why were these two men such close friends? Why did Lincoln seek the counsel and advice of James Harlan on many occasions? They were kindred spirits.





They had much in common. To use the words of Edwin Markham:

"Born of the ground,  
The great west nursed them on her rugged knees."

The education of each was very meager. Lincoln, as we know, had three books in his library as a boy, *Aesop's Fables*, *Weem's Life of Washington* and the *Holy Bible*. Harlan, likewise at the age of 14, saw for the first time a large collection of books in the Public Library of Park county, Indiana. After examining the wonderful volumes, he secured a few volumes to take home with him, and thus began his search for knowledge.

Both of these men were lawyers; they were also pioneers in the field of human rights. Each of them believed in education for all and placed human rights uppermost in their scale of values. Harlan, like Lincoln, continually raised his voice against the further extension of slavery, and when the war came he firmly supported the government in its measures to preserve the union. With Lincoln, he shares the credit for securing the freedom and enfranchisement of an oppressed race.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the state of Iowa paid high tribute to the memory of James Harlan in 1907, when Congress passed a law authorizing each state to select the names of two of its illustrious sons, statues of whom would be placed in the National Statuary Hall in the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., Iowa designated James Harlan as "worthy of being selected as one of the citizens of Iowa whose statue shall be placed in the said National Statuary Hall."

The ties between the families of these two outstanding Americans. James Harlan and Abraham Lincoln, continued on in a very real sense of the word, long after Lincoln's death, through the union of the two families in marriage. On September 24, 1868, Mary Harlan, the only one of James Harlan's four children that lived to maturity, married Robert Todd Lincoln,

the only one of Abraham Lincoln's four children to reach adulthood.

After Harlan retired from the senate in 1873, he returned to his home in Mount Pleasant. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln often visited him there. His three grandchildren, Mary Lincoln, Abraham (Jack) Lincoln, and Jessie Lincoln were his pride and joy. On one occasion in September, 1883, he had the three grandchildren stand against a closet door while he recorded the name and height of each on the central panel. This door is now a precious treasure of Iowa Wesleyan college.

The continuing strength of the Harlan-Lincoln friendship is further revealed in a very interesting and unique manner.

Robert Todd Lincoln inherited slightly more than \$100,000.00 from his father, Abraham Lincoln. With this he built up an estate of \$3,300,000.00 in our medium of free enterprise, one of the greatest blessings of America.

Upon the death of Robert Todd Lincoln in 1926, his entire estate came into the possession of his wife, Mary Harlan Lincoln. In the early thirties she sought the counsel of Frederick Towers, attorney of Washington, D.C., in making her will. After making certain bequests to individuals, there remained \$2,100,000 which she desired to set up as a trust fund, the interest from which would go to her descendants so long as there was any issue of blood. Furthermore, Mrs. Lincoln said she wanted the trust fund to be divided, when there was no more issue of blood, one-third going to the American Red Cross, one-third to the Christian Science church of Boston and one-third to be used to create a memorial to her father. Mr. Towers made the suggestion that her father, James Harlan, had one thought, day or night, and that was Iowa Wesleyan College. The comment was true, for Mr. Harlan had been twice president of Iowa Wesleyan and had remained a trustee of the college to the day of his death in 1899. After due







consideration, Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln concurred that a gift to Iowa Wesleyan would be a fitting memorial to her father, James Harlan, and instructed Mr. Towers to designate the last third of the trust fund for this purpose.

At the present time the trust fund has appreciated so that it is valued at more than \$3,000,000. The youngest heir is Robert Todd Beckwith, grandson of Robert Todd Lincoln and Mary Harlan, whose age is 55 and no children. The next heir is his sister, Mary Beckwith, 61, and no children; and the third heir is Lincoln Isham, another grandchild, cousin of the first two named, who is 67 years of age and no children.

Thus, in the course of human events, since there is no further issue of blood besides the three living great grandchildren of Abraham Lincoln and James W. Harlan, the trust fund will be divided and Iowa Wesleyan College will receive at least \$1,000,000.00. This will be a significant gift; but even more significant is the fact that it will be the only college in the world ever to receive any of Abraham Lincoln's money, at least in any substantial amount, through his son, Robert Todd Lincoln. Yea more, how appropriate that it should be a memorial to Lincoln's close friend, James Harlan.

The desire to perpetuate the spirit of that union, as well as the memory of the two families has prompted Iowa Wesleyan College to recently launch a program for the restoration and refurnishing of the Harlan House adjacent to its campus in Mount Pleasant where Senator Harlan lived. This will be a fitting memorial to the memory of James Harlan, first Superintendent of Public Instruction for Iowa, first Republican senator from Iowa, first cabinet member from Iowa and fast friend of Abraham Lincoln; as well as an appropriate recognition from Robert Todd Lincoln, outstanding businessman and public servant; and a worthy shrine symbolizing the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and James Harlan, great pioneers of the Middle West who went "from prairie cabin up to Capitol."

# Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

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KENNETH RICE COOK, well-known attorney and former district judge, died at St. Joseph hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, January 9, 1959; one of twin sons born at Malvern, Iowa October 10, 1890 to Amos Edgar and Florence Rice Cook, his father being a pioneer Mills county lawyer; became a prominent football and basketball player in high school, graduating at Malvern in 1908, worked on the farm to finance a year at the University of Nebraska, and as a bookkeeper in 1913, returning the next year to graduate with his law degree in 1916; married to Mona Mabel Berry of Litchfield, Illinois in Chicago April 18, 1917; began the practice of law at Malvern in association with his father and twin brother, Carleton Harris Cook; the two brothers continued the firm under the name of Cook and Cook after the death of their father in 1926, maintaining offices in both Malvern and Glenwood, and legally representing nearly all the important banks in the county; served as city attorney for Malvern from 1918 to 1926, and was appointed judge of the Fifteenth judicial district by Governor John Hammill in 1929, and retained in the 1930 election, one of the youngest judges in the state's history; resigned in 1933 to re-enter private practice with his brother at Glenwood; assumed much responsibility for the study, revision and final adoption of new rules of civil procedure as a permanent member of the Iowa Supreme Court advisory committee; ably held for many years the chairmanship of the judicial central committee of the Republican party, charged with the important duty of selecting and proposing candidates for judicial office; had been city attorney for Glenwood, and during World War II, was an appeal agent of the Selective Service Act; also was active in the American Bar Association, Mills County Bar Association, and a member of the board of governors of the Iowa State Bar Association for eight years; belonged to several other professional organizations, the Congregational church, and the Masonic order; survived by his wife, one son, Edgar Edwin of Glenwood, two daughters, Mrs. R. E. Owen, also of Glenwood, and Mrs. Frank Mackaman of Des Moines.

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ERNEST EDWARD IRONS, physician, died at a hospital in Chicago, Illinois, January 18, 1959; born on a farm near Council Bluffs, Iowa February 17, 1877, the son of Edward and Mary J. Sharp Irons; graduated from the University of Chicago in 1900, took





two years of further study, as a fellow obtaining his medical degree from Rush Medical college in 1903, and began fifty-eight years of general medical practice in Chicago; married Gertrude Thompson in 1908; continued his studies as assistant in pathology and bacteriology at the University of Chicago from 1902 to 1904, receiving a Ph.D. degree in 1912; was dean of the Rush Medical college from 1923 to 1936, and clinical professor of medicine, emeritus, at the University of Illinois medical school; cited by the University of California school of medicine in 1946 as the outstanding physician of the year in the United States for service to his patients; was consulting physician to Presbyterian hospital, member of the National Advisory Health Council, Association of American Physicians, American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, American Board of Internal Medicine, and American Society of Bacteriology, as well as state and Chicago medical societies; also had served as president of the American College of Physicians, and was a trustee and president of the American Medical Association from 1949 to 1950; became president of the Institute of Medicine in Chicago in 1956, and was president of the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium board of directors at the time of his death; had two children, Edwin Newton Irons and Spencer E. Irons.

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LEON WALTER POWERS, prominent attorney, former Iowa Supreme Court justice, and state legislator, died at his home in Denison, Iowa January 6, 1959; born on a farm in Webster county June 12, 1888, the son of Walter and Katherine McIntyre Powers; attended country school, Tobin preparatory college in Fort Dodge, graduated from the University of Iowa in 1912, and received his law degree from the University of Chicago in 1914; joined the law firm of Feltensal, Beckwith, Spangler & Wilson in Chicago, but within six months, removed to Denison, Iowa to enter the law office of James P. Conner, becoming a partner in the firm of Conner & Powers in 1916; married Blamid Marie Lally of Denison June 28, 1916; elected to the state house of representatives as a Democrat from Crawford county in 1918, resuming his law practice in Denison after serving two terms; with the death of his law partner in 1924, formed the firm of Powers & Gilchrist with L. V. Gilchrist in 1930, building one of the largest law practices in the county; remained active in politics, was a member of the Democratic state central committee, and an Iowa delegate to the party's national conventions in 1924, 1932, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was first nominated, and again in 1944; served as assistant attorney general for six months in 1933, and then became a special assistant attorney general in charge of cases involving

license fees on motor vehicle fuel; was elected to the Iowa Supreme Court in December 1934 to complete the unexpired term of Judge Edgar A. Morling, and resigned February 14, 1936 to become general agent and general counsel for the Omaha division of the Farm Credit Administration; was chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Omaha Bank of Cooperatives, and the Production Credit Association; returned to his private practice in Denison in 1943; the high point of his judicial career came after World War II when chosen as one of the judges to hear the Nuremberg war crimes trials in Germany; had been associated since the summer of 1949 with R. C. Reimer in the law firm of Powers and Reimer at Denison; owned a large farm in Crawford county devoted to grain and livestock; was on the state board of law examiners, a director of the Iowa State Bar Foundation, president of the Crawford County Bar Association, a member of the American and Iowa State Bar Associations; belonged to the St. Rose of Lima Catholic church, the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, was a Kiwanian of honorary standing; survived by a son, James Perry Powers, Phoenix, Arizona, two daughters, Mrs. Patricia Ann Keller, Plandome, New York, and Mrs. Mary Katherine Kimball, Manhasset, New York; his wife and another son, Walter, died in 1947.

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J. LAWRENCE COCHRAN, physician and civic leader, died at St. Anthony hospital in Carroll, Iowa December 24, 1958; born June 1, 1906 in Jackson, Tennessee, received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee, and also graduated from the school of Obstetrics at Buffalo, New York; was a talented musician and played piano with Wayne King's band during his internship in Chicago; married Loretta Millenacker of Carroll at Pensacola, Florida March 2, 1940; began his medical practice at Carroll in September 1940, joined the U. S. Air Force in 1942, schooled as a flight surgeon, and saw active service as a medical corps captain in the South Pacific theater during World War II; re-opened his offices in Carroll following his discharge in 1946, moving into the new Cochran medical building in 1951; elected Carroll county coroner in 1948 serving until 1952, and had again held the office since his re-election in 1954; was secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Coroners Association, president of the Carroll County Medical Society, and on the staff of St. Anthony hospital; held a fellowship in the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, was a member of the Experimental Hypnotic Society, and elected to the New York Academy of Sciences in 1956 for his work in clinical psychology, the only Iowa member except for college and university







faculty members; directed several musical organizations, composed many band selections, and was president of the Midwest Iowa Civic Music Association; was a Democrat, a member of SS. Peter and Paul's church, the Knights of Columbus, the Lions club, American Legion, past president of the Toastmasters club, organist and charter member of the Elks lodge; survived by his wife, two daughters, Mary Ann, a student at Kuemper high school, Clara Louise, who attends SS. Peter and Paul's school, and a son, Joseph Paul, attending the same school.

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LANT HOSSEY DORAN, attorney and former state legislator, died at the Iowa Methodist hospital in Des Moines, Iowa January 10, 1959; born near Beaver, Iowa May 4, 1893, one of thirteen children born to Justin R. and Olive F. Blanshan Doran; graduated from the Beaver high school in 1910 and farmed in Boone county with his father, a long-time state legislator, before entering Drake University law school; enlisted in Battery C, 339th Field Artillery in October 1917 and spent nine months in the army hospital after being injured at Camp Dodge; received his law degree from Drake University in 1920, and married DeElda Kinson, a former Red Cross nurse, at Minneapolis, Minnesota June 23, 1920; began the practice of law at Boone, Iowa, with the firm of Baker & Doran from 1922 to 1924, Baker, Doran & Baker from 1924 to 1931, Doran, Boone & Doran in 1933, Doran & Doran in 1933, which later became Doran, Doran & Doran when his son, William Kinson Doran, became a partner, and was the senior member of Doran, Doran, Doran, Erbe, & Doran at his death, Norman A. Erbe joining the firm in 1947; was a widely-known trial lawyer, counsel and director of the Boone State Bank & Trust Company, attorney for the Farmers Elevator Company and the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company; took an active part in Republican party politics, elected to the state senate from the Thirty-first district in 1928, retired after one term, and served again from 1936 to 1940; was chairman of the appropriations and interim committees, headed the Iowa State committee of retrenchment and reform, also served on the committee investigating the state university administration, authored the Iowa drivers license law, the school bus stop law, and was a memorable orator in proposing repeal of the state's Sunday blue laws and in opposing Iowa's fireworks ban; was a member of the Boone county, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the Episcopal church, the Masonic order, Elks club, past commander of Arthur D. Lantz Post of the American Legion, and a past president of the Boone Lions club; survived by his wife, two sons, Dr. John Robert of Ames, William Kinson of

Boone, and one daughter, Mrs. Jacqueline Erbe of Boone, wife of his law partner, Iowa Attorney General Norman A. Erbe.

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ADOLPH L. BENSON, stock farm operator and former opera singer, died at Memorial hospital in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin January 4, 1959; born February 23, 1896 on a Highland township farm near Elkader, Iowa, the son of August and Sara Elizabeth Jacoby Benson; studied voice at Upper Iowa University, and served overseas as a sergeant in the 349th machine gun group during World War I; returned to Europe after the war to study two years in Sweden, and following additional study in New York City, joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company in Chicago as a baritone soloist; remained with this famous company for ten years before returning to Elkader to operate a service station until about 1945; has since been associated with his father and two brothers, Charles August Benson, former state senator, and Oscar A. Benson, in operating the stock farm of August Benson & Sons on the family homestead in Highland township; was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Masons; married in September of 1941 to Frances Finley who survives him.

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FRANK KOCH, retired newspaper publisher and former legislator, died at the hospital in Spencer, Iowa December 28, 1958; born near Whittemore, Iowa November 15, 1885, the son of John and Josephine Kindle Koch, and the fourth child in a family of eight boys and four girls; learned the printing trade with the *Whittemore Champion* while attending high school, graduating in 1902; left that paper to become printer for the *Woodbine Twiner* in 1903, established a printing business in Loveland, Colorado in 1904, removed to Fort Lupton, Colorado that same year, worked as a printer at Garner, Iowa from 1905 to 1906, at Clarion the following year, and at Whittemore from 1907 to 1908; was shop foreman on the *Emmetsburg Democrat* for ten years under W. I. Branagan before beginning twenty-eight years as editor and publisher of the *West Bend Journal* in April of 1919; married May Schlichtemier in Nehawka, Nebraska June 29, 1927; was a former semi-pro baseball player, member of the West Bend school board from 1929 to 1944, eight years as president, and served five years on the board of the Methodist church; retired from his paper in January 1947, elected to the Iowa house of representatives as a Republican from Palo Alto county in 1946, and served three terms; was active in the Masonic order and the Order of the Eastern Star; survived by his wife, one son, Richard Dean, Lincoln, Nebraska, and two daughters, Mrs. Barbara Jean Stauch, Kimball, Nebraska, and Kathryn Ann, a student at Iowa State college.





EMELENE C. MAULSBY, clubwoman and former political leader, died at Iowa Methodist hospital in Des Moines, Iowa December 28, 1958; born August 26, 1877 at Palmyra, Illinois, the daughter of Sarah and John Costley, Disciples of Christ minister; taught school there before attending Drake University in Des Moines and after graduating, taught at Redfield, Iowa before returning to Des Moines to live about 1907; married William E. Maulsby, a state sales tax investigator, who died in 1944; served as worthy matron of the Eastern Star at Redfield and was active in war service organizations during World War I; became active in Democratic party affairs and was vice-chairman of the state central committee from 1924 to 1928; organized the Girl Volunteer Aid which later became the Jun'or Federation of Women's Clubs, the Delta Theta Chi sorority in Des Moines, was first president of the Greater Des Moines Council of Camp Fire Girls, a past president of the Des Moines Federation of Women's Clubs, a member of Today's club, and the University Christian church; founded to the memory of a daughter, which died in infancy, the Margaret Maulsby club, and continued as club mother to this service group that gave the cottage "Cantewica" to the Camp Fire Girls camp near Boone; worked as state juvenile agent in the child placement division of the state board of control from 1933 to 1944; survived by two sons, Colonel William E. Maulsby of Washington, D.C., and Navy Captain Robert J. C. Maulsby, stationed in Japan.

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SHERMAN W. NEEDHAM, former newspaperman and long-time state official, died at his desk in the state house January 16, 1959; born into a pioneer Iowa newspaper family at Sigourney May 31, 1881, the son of William H. and Olive Ann Knowlton Needham; began helping his father on the *News* at Sigourney as a boy of eleven, graduated from the high school there in 1898, attended Iowa State college, and received his bachelor of science degree from Iowa Wesleyan college at Mt. Pleasant in 1903; married June 19, 1907 at Iowa City to Grace Darland who was an active partner with him in newspaper work for many years; associated with his father in editing and publishing the *Keokuk County News* at Sigourney from 1905 to 1917, was editor and owner of the *Hardin County Ledger* at Eldora for four years, removed to Ames in 1931 upon purchasing the *Milepost* there, appointed state Superintendent of Printing in September 1942, and ably supervised this important operation of the state government for over eighteen years, longer than any other occupant of the office; was one of three brothers who for several years all published their own Iowa newspapers, the late Charles K. at Grinnell, the late John R. at Cen-



terville, and Will, Jr., at Sigourney and New Sharon; won the Iowa American Legion editorial contest in 1940; presented with the Iowa Press Association's Master Editor-Publisher award in 1943; served as a chairman of the American Red Cross; was a member of the Methodist church, Masonic order, Shrine and Elks club; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Alice Williams, Honolulu, Hawaii, and a son, Maurice W. Needham, on the faculty of the University of Chicago.

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SWISHER, prominent attorney and civic leader, died at Schoitz Memorial hospital in Waterloo, Iowa January 22, 1959; born at Iowa City January 21, 1878, the son of the pioneer family of Lovell and Elizabeth Leonard Swisher; graduated from Iowa City high school in 1895, received a bachelor of philosophy degree from the University of Iowa in 1899, and his law degree the following year; married Helen Field Moulton at Glenwood, Iowa November 26, 1902; was associated with the law firm of Mullan and Pickett in Waterloo for three years before establishing his own practice there in 1903; served as Waterloo city attorney from 1905 to 1910 helping to bring about the city's acquisition of Byrnes park; appointed national draft inspector for a six state area during World War I, a lieutenant colonel in the specialist reserve, and undertook a special mission to Canada for the state department; organized a law partnership with Charles Pickett in 1913 with which Frank E. Farwell also became associated in 1915, Benjamin Franklin Swisher, Jr., his son, and Leo J. Cohrt joined the firm following the death of Farwell in 1929 and Pickett in 1930, Whitney Gilliland became a partner after the death of the younger Swisher in 1944 and he in turn was succeeded by the younger son, Charles Franklin Swisher, Charles A. Finch became associated with the firm in 1957; had been general counsel of the Rath Packing Company since 1943, a member of the board of directors from 1943 until December 1958, and as senior member of Swisher, Cohrt, Swisher and Finch, provided legal counsel to many other large Waterloo companies; served on the Waterloo board of education from 1915 to 1924, the last six years as president during which West high school, now West junior high, was built, also was a member of the water works board of trustees for many years, being instrumental in the purchase of the water works; was a member of the American Bar Association, president of the Iowa State Bar Association in 1926-27, and a past president of the Black Hawk County Bar Association, also belonged to the American Law Institute, was president of the University of Iowa Alumni association from 1927 to 1930, and headed the Memorial Union board





of trustees for the past several years; was Chamber of Commerce national councilor from 1937 to 1939, a member of Rotary, Knights of Pythias, Elks, board of trustees of the YMCA and Congregational church; long active in Republican party affairs; wrote poetry as a hobby and had four volumes privately printed; survived by his wife, a son, Charles Franklin of Waterloo, two daughters, Mrs. Helen Moulton Plock of Burlington, and Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Horner of Waterloo.

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JACOB R. (JAKE) PERKINS, retired minister, internationally known author, and a former state penal officer, died at his home in Council Bluffs, Iowa January 19, 1959; born at Renwick, Missouri July 16, 1879, the son of Jacob, who died before his birth, and Nancy Miles Perkins; orphaned while still in grade school but graduated from high school at Macon, Missouri, and saved his money working as a theater stage hand, an exercise boy at St. Louis race tracks, playing semi-pro baseball, and as an apprentice in a wagon factory to attend Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa; married Stella Beeman Wonder at Onawa, Iowa July 17, 1901; ordained to the Disciples of Christ ministry at Hedrick, Iowa, and held pastorates at Packwood, Onawa and Sioux City, Iowa, also in Glasgow, Huntsville and Paris, Missouri, and in California at Fresno and San Francisco; was warden of the state penitentiary at Fort Madison from 1917 to 1920, and then accepted the pastorate of the First Congregational church in Council Bluffs; lectured extensively in colleges and high schools; became a noted writer, authoring a study of General Grenville M. Dodge, *Trails, Rails & War*, *A Thin Volume* of poetry, a play, "The Money Changers," and was probably best known as co-author of the Rotary International Code of Ethics, wrote two successful biblical novels, *The Emperor's Physician* and *Anitoch Actress*, and had a third nearly ready for publication; his poems appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* "Line o' Type or Two" for many years under the pseudonym 'Aborigine,' and his contributions were frequently read in magazines; his widely read column, "Accent on Life," has been carried in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* since 1950; was respected and revered for his wisdom and humility by all who came into contact with him; in 1941 a close friend, the famed war correspondent, Ernie Pyle, wrote of him: "He is a human endowed with Biblical patience . . . a philosopher, a gentleman and a scholar—and a good story teller besides . . . Perkins always says something worth listening to and people feel better for having listened"; retired as an active minister in 1947; served as vice president of the Council Bluffs library board, member of the Pottawattamie county American Red Cross board, Masons, was a life member and chaplain of the Elks lodge for

many years, and also held a life membership in the Rotary International, serving as executive secretary in 1921; survived by his wife, and two sons, Proctor R. of Council Bluffs, and William H. of Sunnyvale, California.

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WILLIAM S. RUPE, well-known newspaper publisher, died at Mary Greeley hospital in Ames, Iowa January 13, 1959; born in Dickinson county, Kansas October 7, 1886, the son of Samuel and Anna Holcomb Rupe; graduated from high school at Robinson, Kansas, attended Lane University, Campbell college and received his B.S. and B.A. degrees from the University of Kansas in 1904; married Minta Warner at Sabetha, Kansas September 28, 1911; was a superintendent of schools in Kansas for over fifteen years before moving to Des Moines, Iowa in 1920 to become owner and manager of Acme, Midland, Mutual and Redpath Chautauqua systems; entered the newspaper field in 1928 by purchasing the *Marysville* (Missouri) *Daily Forum*, sold it to buy the *News Advertiser* at Creston, Iowa in October 1932, and named "A-1 Citizen" there that year and in 1935; became owner and publisher of the *Ames Daily Tribune* in 1935, purchasing it from the J. L. Powers family; also was part owner of the *Cedar Falls Daily Record*, *Charles City Press*, *Manchester Press*, *Oelwein Register*, *Marysville* (Missouri) *Tribune*, and president of radio station KASI in Ames from 1949 to 1958; was a member of the state emergency relief board during the 1930's; appointed to the state board of education in July 1941, and reappointed in 1947; actively served the Republican party for several years, as campaign manager for Governor George A. Wilson during his re-election in 1940, as public relations chairman in charge of publicity for the national western headquarters in Chicago during the national campaigns in 1944 and 1948, as the leader of Harold Stassen's campaign in Iowa in 1948, as finance chairman for William G. Murray in the 1958 campaign for governor, and as head of the speaker's bureau of the state Republican headquarters six times; was vice president of the USO in Iowa during World War II, and chairman of the state scrap iron drive; chosen president of the Iowa Daily Press in 1941, and later vice president; honored by the Iowa Press Association with its Master Editor-Publisher award in 1945; presented with Ames' "Key to the City" citizenship award in 1957; was a member of the Methodist church, the Rotary club, Elks lodge, and the Masons; preceded in death by his wife in 1951, survived by his widow, Mabel, and a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Ann Carey, Saranac Lake, New York.





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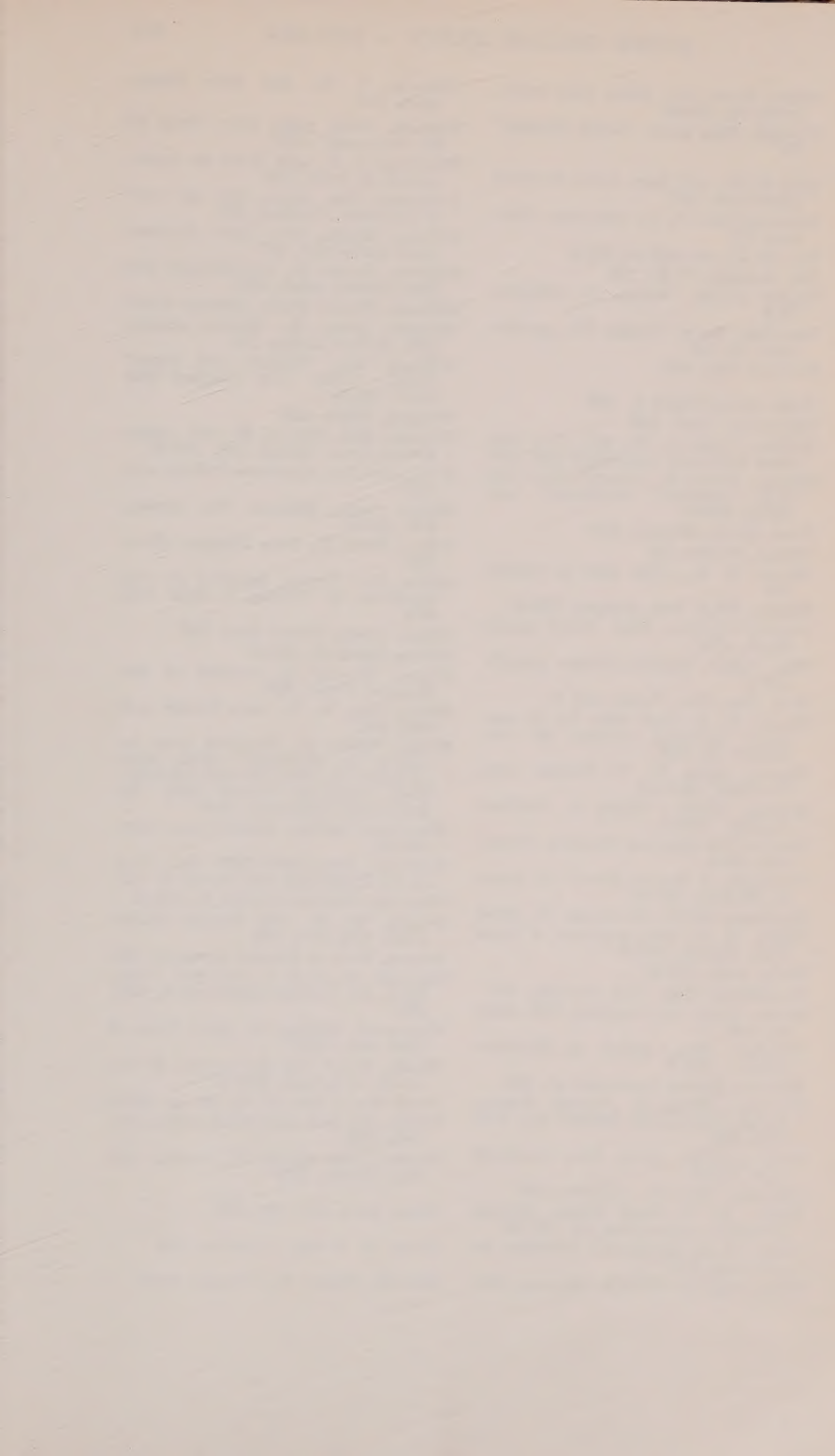


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